



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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2nd test of Agni-5 held, strike range of 5K km

India has successfully test-fired an advanced Agni ballistic missile with the strategic ability to deploy multiple payloads to separate targets simultaneously -- a milestone that places the country among a select league of global powers. Agni-5 has an officially declared strike range of over 5,000 km, putting targets deep into the Eurasian landmass, including northern China within reach | P9



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FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

WHILE many children of her age spend hours on smartphones during vacation, Manyata Jha prefers to sit quietly in her room, giving wings to her imagination.

Manyata, who is 14, published her first novel, 'The Mystery of the Lost Bag', in March. What makes her achievement even more remarkable is that from writing to finding an online publisher and ensuring that her work reached platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart, she managed everything on her own.

A Class 10 student, Manyata has no plans to take a break from writing to prepare for the crucial annual exam. "I know I have to devote more time to studies this year for the SSLC examination. But writing is my passion, which I can't ignore," she told *TNSE*.

The beginning

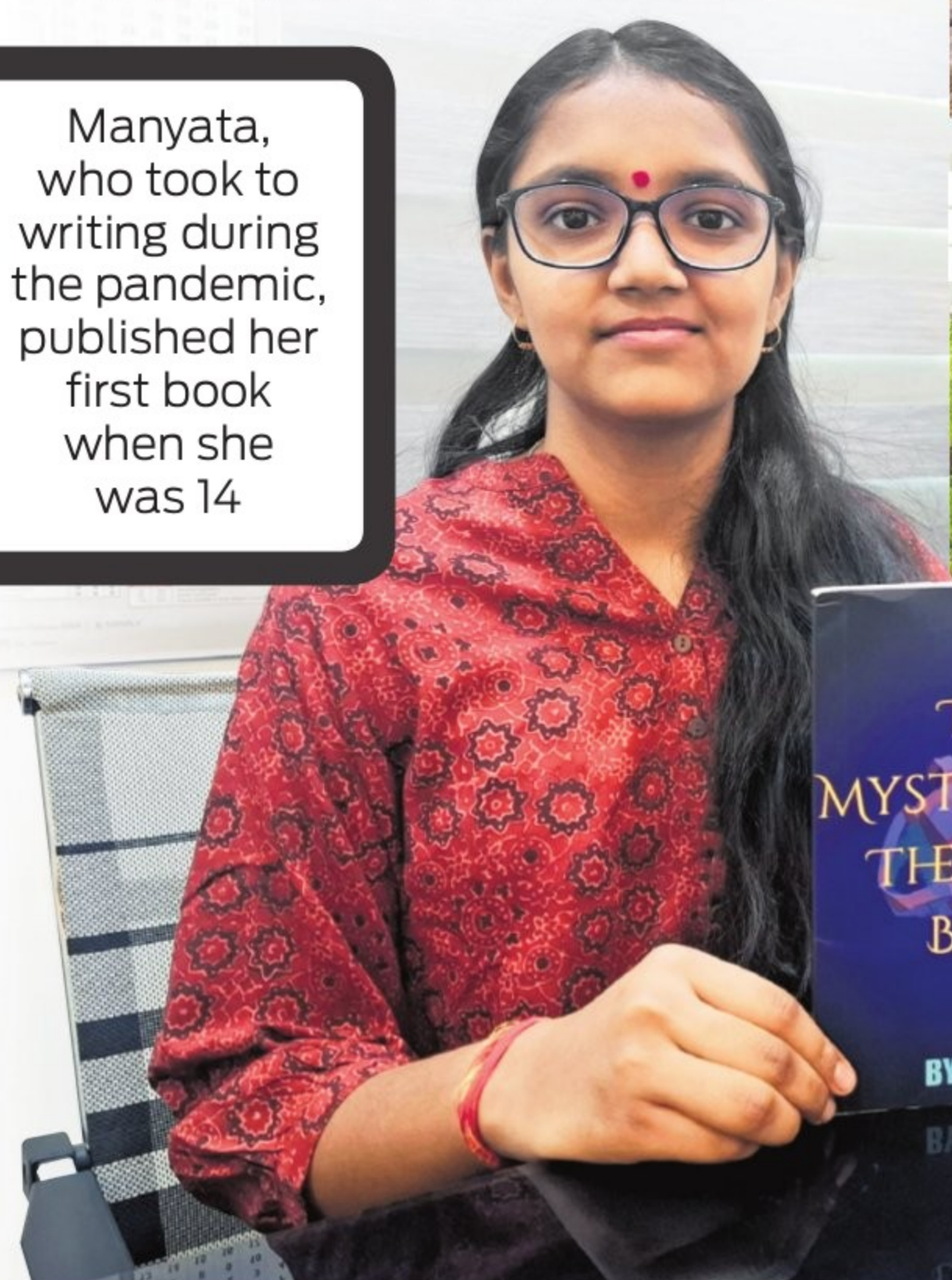
Her journey as an author began during Covid when schools remained shut and children were confined to homes. During the lockdown, she poured on books, especially mythological ones. Inspired by the story-telling techniques, she began wondering whether she too could write stories.

"Soon, I started penning short stories," she said.

Her first short story, 'A Wired Road', revolves around a girl

YOUNG AND WISE, SHE HAS A MESSAGE AS A WRITER

Manyata, who took to writing during the pandemic, published her first book when she was 14



Through my stories, I want to show that girls are not weak-hearted. They can face challenges and overcome difficulties
— Manyata Jha, writer

who unknowingly enters a mysterious cave and experiences strange incidents before waking up and realising that it was only a dream.

Manyata now has 15 short stories to her credit. She was encouraged by her friends and family, especially her mother, who carefully read her works and suggested improvements.

"My family members and friends read whatever I wrote. They encouraged me and gave me suggestions to improve stories or add new elements. Their support helped me improve my writing skills," she said.

As her confidence grew, Manyata began thinking beyond short stories. It was during this time, she came up with 'The Mystery of the Lost Bag'. Living in a railway colony near the railway station, she used to watch passengers moving in and out of the station with their luggage every day. This inspired her to write a story centred around a missing bag. "I imagined a girl losing her bag in the crowded railway station and later struggling to find it. This idea slowly developed into a novel," Manyata said.

"Once I completed nearly 20% of this work, I shared it with my friends and family members for their feedback. Their positive response motivated me to continue. They appreciated the story and suggested some changes, which were meaningful," she said.

Those suggestions were incorporated and within a few months, the novel was ready.

Manyata's works primarily

focus on girls and their struggles. Through her writing, she hopes to convey the message that girls can excel in all fields. "I want to show through my stories that girls are not weak-hearted. They can face challenges and overcome difficulties," she said.

Her father Chandan Kumar Jha, a senior railway employee, said he never knew his daughter's talent until she surprised everybody in the family with her first work.

"One day, Manyata told me that she was preparing to publish her book and had even found a publisher online. I was surprised and happy. Without any help from anyone, she managed to publish her work," he said.

"The reading culture in my family might have played an important role in shaping Manyata as a writer. I enjoy reading and usually carry books while travelling. My wife also likes reading. Perhaps that atmosphere encouraged our daughter to develop an interest in reading and writing," Jha said.

Manyata has a message for boys and girls, particularly those addicted to smartphones. "Mobile phones have become an unavoidable part of modern life. But their uncontrolled use by boys and girls seriously affects studies and personal growth," she said.

"Mobile phones should be used for learning new skills, gaining knowledge or preparing for exams. But if students get addicted to them, they lose focus on studies and waste valuable time," Manyata said.

NITI AAYOG REPORT

60% of Class 5 private school kids can't solve basic math problems

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OVER 35% of Grade 5 students in low-fee private schools are unable to read a Class 2 text and 60% cannot solve a basic division problem, revealed a NITI Aayog report released recently.

The report listed several challenges and bottlenecks in the education system in India. Increased dependency on private education systems and change in perception of government schools is one of them. It highlighted that issues like lack of quality teaching or teachers, absence of sufficient teachers for students and low levels of learning among children are not just limited to government schools, but exist in private schools too.

Despite these issues, lack of informed choice among parents and desire for English medium is forcing them to admit their children to private schools, especially in low-fee private schools.

"Private schools now constitute 44.01% of all secondary institutions (UDISE+ 2024-25), and enrolment in government schools has declined from 71% in 2005 to 49.24% in 2024-25. This shift is driven by the perception of private schools offering English-medium instruction, discipline and employability. However, evidence suggests these expectations are not consistently matched by learning outcomes," the report stated.

It highlighted that there were no norms or regulations to monitor low-fee private schools across the country. "India's school education system has seen a notable shift towards private institutions, particularly at the secondary level. This change reflects parental aspirations for better outcomes, but the private sector's rapid growth also raises concerns around quality, equity and regulation. Many low-fee private schools fall short of infrastructure norms under the RTE Act, lacking basic amenities such as toilets, playgrounds and clean drinking water," it added.

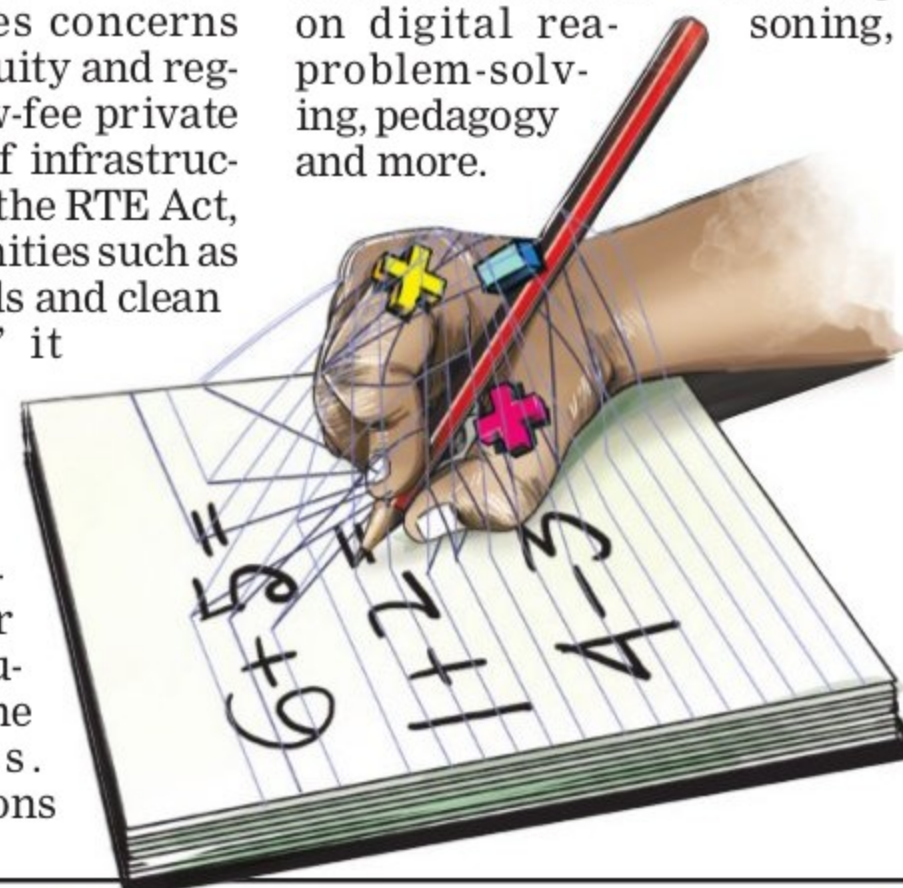
In addition, teacher recruitment is often informal, with underqualified or untrained individuals filling full-time teaching roles. "Working conditions

remain precarious, with low pay, job insecurity and limited access to professional development directly affecting classroom quality and student outcomes. Private schools, especially low-fee private institutions, operate in a largely under-regulated space. There is no national system for periodic accreditation, performance benchmarking, or public disclosure of learning outcomes. Most states lack robust mechanisms to monitor compliance with minimum norms under the RTE Act 2009, including infrastructure, teacher qualifications and fee regulation," the report stated.

The report stressed lack of informed parental choice in enrolling children in private schools. "In the absence of transparent school-level data such as pupil-teacher ratios, assessment results, or teacher credentials, parents often base their decisions on proxies like English-medium instruction or digital boards," it said.

It provided recommendations to strengthen education in both government and private schools. The report recommended establishing state and district task forces on school quality, strengthening teacher deployment, workforce planning and time-on-task governance and improving teacher preparation, subject expertise and professional development.

More importantly, the report suggested integrating Artificial Intelligence for pedagogical innovation and system readiness. Government institutions, including DIETs, NCERT, MeITY, SCERTs and others must develop national and state-level guidelines on ethical AI use, data privacy, authorship and transparency in educational contexts. At the same time, they must introduce AI awareness and literacy modules for students and teachers focusing on digital reasoning, problem-solving, pedagogy and more.



BMRCL withdraws 2-hour suspension of services on Purple Line on May 10



Bengaluru: The Bangalore Metro Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has withdrawn its earlier decision to temporarily suspend metro services on a section of the Purple Line for two hours on May 10. The train operations across all metro corridors will commence from 5 am on Sunday. The decision was

announced on Saturday, as a large number of passengers are expected to travel across Bengaluru to attend various events on Sunday. They said the move was aimed at ensuring smooth and convenient passenger movement across the city. BMRCL had earlier suspended metro services between Shri Balagangadhara Swamyji Station (Hosahalli) and Cubbon Park Metro Station for a duration of two hours from on the Purple Line. According to the revised schedule, metro services on the Purple Line, Green Line and Yellow Line will begin operations from 5 am onwards from all terminal stations and continue as per the regular timetable for the rest of the day. **ENS**

Enumerators told to visit locked houses during evening hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH many houses locked during morning hours as people go for work, Bengaluru Central City Corporation officials have directed the staff engaged in Census-2027 to visit such houses in the evening.

"To ensure that all households in the Central City Corporation limits are covered, census staff have been instructed to visit those locked houses in the evening when people return home from work," said Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljeet Kumar. Charge officers and revenue

officials have been instructed to accompany enumerators and cross-check the houses marked as locked before conducting the census work in the evening. This process is on now, the official said.

Staff of the Central City Corporation visited the official residence of forest, environment and ecology minister Eshwar Khandre for enumeration. The minister provided all information to the enumerators.

Utilise funds effectively, says West City chief

Engineers should execute the tasks given to them with a feeling of "Our ward, our pride".

They should formulate plans and execute them, keeping the next 30 years in mind, Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra KV said.

He was speaking after inaugurating a workshop on 'Budget-to-Action Plan' organised for officials here on Friday. The aim of the workshop is to educate officials on the proper use of Rs 4,732 crore granted to the Bengaluru West City Corporation for 2026-27.

"Instead of spending more money on maintenance of the corporation's assets, we should think of using it efficiently. Engineers have a big role to play here," he said.

Over 35,000 students write COMEDK in K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OF the 1,30,620 candidates registered for COMEDK across India, 1,10,787 appeared for the exam. In Karnataka alone, 35,678 of the 40,547 candidates attended the exam. Of them, 17,054 were in Bengaluru.

COMEDK exam is an entrance test for admissions to approximately 20,000 seats in about 150 engineering colleges in Karnataka. Similarly, Uni-GAUGE is an entrance exam

for over 30 participating private universities in India. COMEDK and Uni-GAUGE are conducted as a single exam with separate merit lists.

The exam was conducted in two sessions in 171 cities across India and 25 cities in Karnataka on Saturday. The state had 109 centres and 46 of them were in Bengaluru.

The provisional answer keys will be released on May 13 and the final answer key will be released on May 20. Students can access their rank card on May 26.

EXPRESS READ

1,222 students graduate at CMRIT convocation

Bengaluru: A total of 1,222 students graduated from CMR Institute of Technology at its 23rd Graduation Day held here on Saturday. The graduating batch of 2025-26 comprised students from engineering and MCA programmes, marking a major academic milestone for the institution. The ceremony recognised students for academic excellence, while athletes who represented the institution at national and international events were also honoured. Chief guest Rishi Pardal, Founder and CEO of Biopeak, urged graduates to focus on continuous learning, leadership and skill development, and to adapt to emerging challenges such as artificial intelligence and climate change. Guest of honour K.C. Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.), former Member of the Rajya Sabha and Chairman of CMR Group of Institutions and CMR University, congratulated the graduates and said the institution has produced successful alumni worldwide through quality education and research-based learning. CMRIT Principal Sanjay Jain welcomed the gathering. **ENS**



FARM FRESH

A farmer sells organic fruits and vegetables at the 'Raita Santhe' (farmers' market) at the GKVK campus on Saturday. The initiative by the University of Horticultural Sciences gives a platform to farmers to sell directly to customers | KEVIN NASHON

UAS to confer 1,115 degrees on May 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru-based University of Agricultural Sciences will hold its 60th convocation at the Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre on the GKVK campus on May 12. Governor and Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot will preside over the ceremony, while Agriculture Minister and Pro-Chancellor N Chaluvayaswamy will be the chief guest. Former UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar will deliver the convocation address. A total of 1,115 students will receive degrees, including 747

bachelor's degrees, 260 master's degrees and 108 doctoral degrees. The university will also award 140 gold medals and certificates for academic excellence during 2024-25 to 55 students.

Among the notable achievers is Prem Kumar KE from Kolar district, son of a driver, who secured 10 donor gold medals in his 15 gold medal tally and is currently pursuing postgraduate studies at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Krishna Priya R from Kerala secured eight medals in postgraduate studies and has been selected as an agricultural officer in Kerala.

The university will also confer honorary doctorates on GVK Naidu, Srikanta HK and Aravind TM for their contributions to agriculture, agri-business and rural development. Naidu is being honoured for modernising India's horticulture sector and strengthening farmer-centric supply chains.

Srikanta is recognised for promoting sustainable horticulture, eco-friendly agriculture and rural entrepreneurship. Aravind is a pioneer in precision farming, protected cultivation, floriculture and sustainable resource management practices in modern agriculture.

BSY paved way for BJP entry to South: Shah

Says Yediyurappa rejected Union cabinet berth to bring BJP to power in Karnataka

6 SUBHASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday showered praise on former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, calling him a "rare leader" who was never after power, but the one who preferred to build the party in Karnataka.

After taking part in the BSY Abhimanotsava to celebrate 50 years of Yediyurappa's political journey, the Union minister said, "In 2014, BJP was about to form the government at the Centre with Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. I was the general secretary of the party at that time. Surprisingly, when I was at Gujarat Bhavan, I got a letter from Yediyurappa. The letter said: 'My priority is Karnataka and I want to bring BJP back to power in the state, hence don't make me a minister in the Union cabinet.'"

He said, "I have seen people who after becoming Union ministers try to become chief ministers. But Yediyurappa rejected the opportunity and led the BJP movement in Karnataka and brought it to power."

'BSY had big role in turning B'luru into a tech hub'

Shah lauded Yediyurappa for playing a vital role in making Bengaluru a global tech hub and said he will be remembered forever for his service to the state.

Stating that there is no leader of Yediyurappa's stature, he said it was the former CM who introduced a separate agricultural budget and supported the farming community. He understood their problems and resolved them, Shah added.

"I worked with Yediyurappa in the last three elections and was amazed by his priority to minute things. He used to keep a small diary in his pocket and track everything and follow everything up. It was an education for me. There are a lot of things that our young politicians have to learn from Yediyurappa," Shah said.

When everyone said BJP will not flourish in South India, Yediyurappa worked out strategies and formed the first BJP government here. "I have toured Karnataka extensively, met many swamiji's, visited memorials of freedom fighters and at one point visited the memorial of freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna. It was a small place. When I went inside, I saw that it had been developed into an attractive spot. When I asked people who had done this, the only answer was Yediyurappa."

Shah said the presence of seers from all communities on one stage sends a clear message to the state and the entire country that Yediyurappa is not confined to one community and is liked by all communities.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah felicitates former CM BS Yediyurappa during the BSY Abhimanotsava held at Shri Madara Chennaiah Guru Peetha in Chitradurga on Saturday. BJP leaders, including party state president B Y Vijayendra, and seers of various mutts from across the state look on | EXPRESS

'BJP GOVT IN BENGAL, BSY EVENT A HAPPY COINCIDENCE'

Chitradurga: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said it was a happy coincidence that the formation of the new BJP government in West Bengal and the 50-year celebration of BS Yediyurappa's political journey happened on the same day. "When (BJP leader) Govind Karjol invited me for the Yediyurappa's felicitations programme, I accepted the invitation. I didn't know that it will coincide with the oath-taking ceremony in West Bengal," he said. Thanking voters of Bengal, Shah said, "Today is a historic day as the lotus flag has risen in West Bengal, the land of spiritual leaders, like Arobindo Ghosh, Swamy Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Dr Shamaprasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya." **ENS**



Yediyurappa used to say that we should not talk, instead our work should speak. May God bless my favorite leader who personally blessed me, guided me

Basavaraj Bommai, Haveri MP



As long as God gives me strength, I will continue working honestly for the organisation, the party, the state and the nation

BS Yediyurappa, former CM

Retirement does not exist for me: BSY

6 SUBASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Saturday said there is no question of his retirement from public life and he will continue to work for the party in Karnataka and the country till his last breath.

After being felicitated at the BSY Abhimanotsava programme, held to commemorate his 50 years in political life, he stressed that his focus is still on strengthening the party. "I will continue to work on building the party by travelling the length and breadth of the state. The word 'retirement' does not exist for me. As long as God gives me strength, I will continue working honestly for the organisation, the party, the state and the nation," he said.

Yediyurappa said the event was not about honouring an individual but about recognising the collective political and social journey spanning 50 years. "This is not a celebration of an individual. It is a celebration of five decades of our shared journey, of struggles faced together, victories earned together and endurance shown together with the people of Karnataka," he said.

Yediyurappa also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, asserting that India has achieved a new global stature under their leadership. Referring to recent political developments in West Bengal, he claimed that free and fair elections had not taken place there for decades and described BJP's electoral gains as a victory for India. Conducting such a successful election in West Bengal is not merely a victory for democracy, but a



Former CM BS Yediyurappa greets the audience during the Abhimanotsava in Chitradurga on Saturday | EXPRESS

victory of India itself. The combined strength of Modi and Shah has captivated crores of Indians, he said.

Calling Shah a leader working alongside Modi to strengthen the nation, Yediyurappa said the home minister's presence

in Chitradurga, despite political engagements elsewhere, reflected his commitment to Karnataka and BJP cadre. "Today, Shah has not come merely to congratulate me at this 'Abhimanotsava'. He has come to send a message that this country is secure, and that we will deal firmly with every internal and external challenge facing the nation," he said.

Yediyurappa recollected his political journey, from Emergency days to farmers' agitation and BJP's rise in Karnataka. "Your Yediyurappa did not enter public life carrying a silver spoon. As an ordinary man among ordinary people, through unexpected turns in life, I dedicated myself to serving the people of this state," he said. "I proudly say that I am an RSS worker, shaped by the guidance and values imparted by the RSS," he said.

BSY's sweat, sacrifice built BJP in K'taka: PM says in letter

6 SUBASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated former chief minister and BJP stalwart BS Yediyurappa on reaching the 50-year milestone of his political career.

The letter, which was framed and handed over to Yediyurappa, was read out to the gathering by Union minister Pralhad Joshi.

In the letter, Modi stated, "At a time when the BJP was unfairly branded as a party in just some regions, Yediyurappa played a defining role in dispelling them and demonstrating that it is a party of every Indian, no matter which region he or she lives in".

Stating that the Abhimanotsava is not only a moment of celebration for Karnataka, but also an opportunity for count-



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi presents BJP leader BS Yediyurappa with a framed letter sent by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday | EXPRESS

less party karyakartas across India to draw inspiration, he wrote.

"Although I am unable to be

physically present at this special Abhimanotsava, my mind is certainly there among all those gathered to honour a

leader who has devoted himself to public service and nation-building," he added.

Expressing happiness for working closely with Yediyurappa for many years, Modi said, "He has always been warm, affectionate, hard-working and humble. I have seen him in moments of struggle and in moments of success. Through every phase, one thing has remained constant - his absolute commitment to the people of Karnataka and to the ideals of our party."

"His political life reflects the strength of our democracy. Rising from modest beginnings, he built his public life, step by step, through tireless work among farmers, workers, the poor and the marginalised. He earned the trust and affection of the people, who elected him time and again at various levels

and even blessed him to lead the state on several occasions," said Modi in the letter.

"Today, when we see the BJP as a party with a wide appeal in Karnataka, it makes all of us happy. But those who witnessed the earlier decades know how much sweat and sacrifice went into building this foundation. Generations of party karyakartas know how deeply Yediyurappa invested himself in strengthening the organisation," he stated.

The letter noted that Yediyurappa also ensured that development remained inclusive. Many of his policies were aimed at empowering marginalised communities through education, skill development and housing. He also worked with great sensitivity towards fulfilling the aspirations of women, the PM said.

GP polls will be over by Dec-end, says Priyank

Kalaburagi: Gram Panchayat elections in the state will be completed by the end of December, said Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday. Speaking to reporters here, Kharge, who is also Kalaburagi district in-charge minister, said the last day to file objections to the demarcation of Gram Panchayat boundaries got over on May 8 and the elections will be held soon. After this election, the taluk and zilla panchayat elections will be held, he said. Speaking about demand for cabinet expansion, the minister said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the party high command will take a decision at the appropriate time. **ENS**



After Bengal, RSS may boost BJP's poll prospects in K'taka

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

AS the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's grassroots mobilisation contributed to the BJP's victory in the recent West Bengal Assembly election, a similar exercise is expected in Karnataka ahead of the 2028 Assembly polls.

Celebrating its centenary, the Sangh has already planned extensive activities in Karnataka and is planning to expand its base, which could help the BJP.

The frequent, albeit scheduled, visits of RSS Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat to Karnataka is viewed as a morale booster for the BJP. Bhagwat had camped in Karnataka for a couple of days as part of a training programme for Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh swayamsevakas.

On Thursday, he attended an event at the Suttur Mutt in Mysuru.

However, an RSS functionary categorically stated that Bhagwat's visit has nothing to do with politics, as the RSS will

not interfere in such matters. The functionary added that the RSS will address the core issues of social harmony, family values, swadeshi, environment, and civic sense.

In West Bengal, the BJP has reportedly won 51 of the 68 Assembly seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and swept all the 16 seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs). In Karnataka, the Ruling Congress has been facing a backlash from a section of the SCs even as the

The All India Democratic Students Organisation on Saturday criticised the State government's decision to merge government schools under the KPS Magnet and PM Shri schemes, alleging that the move would lead to the gradual closure of neighbourhood schools across Karnataka

POLLS IN B'LURU

A real test for DKS, opportunity to bounce back for BJP



POLITICAL RADAR
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THE ruling Congress, the BJP, Janata Dal (Secular), and other parties have begun laying the groundwork for the civic polls in Bengaluru, which could be held in June if the State Election Commission has its way.

State Election Commissioner GS Sangreshi has given clear directions that the polls in 369 wards in the five municipal corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) should be conducted between June 14 and June 24, after the Supreme Court ordered that the elections be completed by June 30. While there is still some scepticism about the State Government's readiness to hold the much-delayed polls anytime soon, the SEC's directions have set the ball rolling.

Not taking any chances, the political parties are expected to ramp up their preparations for the polls, whether they are held next month or further delayed. Unlike polls to other local bodies in the state, elections in Bengaluru draw national attention, and parties make all-out efforts to gain control of the administration in one of India's fastest-growing metropolises.

The city, with around one-sixth of the state's population, is an engine of India's economic growth and contributes nearly 40% to Karnataka's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). With 28 assembly constituencies and four Lok Sabha segments, including the Bangalore Rural LS seat, it is politically significant, and a must-win poll for the ruling Congress that will be completing three years in office on May 20, and equally important for the BJP that is striving to make a comeback after successive setbacks in bypolls to the assembly seats.

The GBA polls will be the biggest political test for Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress chief DK Shivakumar, since the Congress stormed back to power with a thumping majority in May 2023. He holds the high-profile Bengaluru Development portfolio, alongside the Water Resources department. In the state capital, the buck stops with him, unlike the assembly bypolls, which were fought under collective leadership, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being at the helm of affairs.

Although the Congress has a battery of leaders, including ministers Ramalinga Reddy, Krishna Byre Gowda, Byrathi Suresh, and Zameer Ahmed Khan, all representing assembly segments in the City, Bengaluru is not an easy test for the Vokkaliga strongman, aspiring to become the CM.

The implementation of the five guarantees played a significant role in the bypolls, but may not be as big a factor among urban vot-

ers, who will hold the government accountable for the infrastructure deficit, among other issues. However, the guarantees focused on women may appeal to that segment of voters to some extent.

The timing remains crucial. Holding elections towards the end of June will be nothing short of a nightmare for Congress, as the rains would expose governance failure at the municipal level. Potholes that resurface on the Bengaluru roads after monsoon rains, which also cause flooding in low-lying areas, make it all the more difficult for Congress to approach voters with its development-focused pitch.

Despite dividing the corporation into five smaller entities under GBA to ensure the effective resolution of civic issues, at times, they are found wanting. On April 29, seven people were killed after a compound wall of Bowring Hospital collapsed due to heavy rains. On the same day, hundreds of trees were uprooted, exposing the city's vulnerability and administrative failure.

At the top level, the ministers and senior Congress leaders admit that confusion over the leadership issue is taking a toll on the administration and that it needs to be resolved at the earliest. That issue could again be kept on the back burner if the elections are announced in the next few days or weeks.

A senior Congress leader, playing a crucial role in the party's election management in the state capital, admits that the party's prospects look good only in the North and Central Municipal Corporations. He is sceptical about holding the polls before June 30. He does not rule out the possibility of the government seeking more time, as officials are busy with census work. According to him, if the elections are postponed further, they could be held in September/October.

While that clarity would emerge in the next few days, the political parties continue with their preparations.

In Bengaluru, the BJP is expected to fight the elections with the same intensity and rigor as the assembly polls. The party, which won 16 of the 28 assembly segments in the city in 2023 and all four LS seats in the 2024 elections, can fight a street-for-street and ward-for-ward battle against the Congress. The party would try to channelise the anger among the urban middle class over price rise, corruption, poor infrastructure, and unemployment, against the Congress government. But it is not easy for the BJP leadership to counter the Congress narrative against the Union Government, especially over price rise.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to party workers near the HAL airport in Bengaluru on Sunday morning would give a head start for the BJP's preparations for the upcoming polls. While the PM's address prepares the ground, keeping up the momentum could be a big challenge.



Siddaramaiah government claimed that it had implemented internal quota for SCs. The STs are also unhappy with the government as two of its leaders, B Nagendra and KN Rajanna, were dropped from the cabinet. The BJP, with the help of RSS feedback, is likely to harp on these issues, observed political analysts.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, had started organising the SC-right commu-

nity for the party. The issue of Dalit CM may also be a poll plank for the BJP as the 2028 elections approach, added a source.

The BJP is also using the recent Assam poll results to portray the Congress' appeasement politics, as 18 of the 19 Congress candidates who won are Muslims.

In Karnataka, the BJP has not missed an opportunity to brand the Congress government as pro-Muslim, as it has come down heavily each time a welfare scheme is announced for the community.

Man, harassed by partner, dies by suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 30-year-old man has died by suicide on Tuesday after he was allegedly mentally harassed by his live-in partner. The victim, C Thippeswamy, who hailed from Chitradurga, was in a relationship with Priyanka, from Davanagere, who is a mother of two, over the last few months. They were living together in a rented house on KTG College Road in Hegganahalli the last one-and-a-half months, after renting the house claiming to be husband and wife.

Thippeswamy died by hanging from the ceiling fan between 5.30 pm and 9.40 pm on Tuesday. His brother, C Shiva Murthy (35) filed a complaint against Priyanka on Wednesday, stating that Thippeswamy often told him about the mental harassment he faced from Priyanka. She had also told him to end the relationship if he wanted, the complaint mentioned.

Thippeswamy and Priyanka met on Instagram and started working at the same garments factory. Police said, the woman deserted her husband and children and started living with him. Thippeswamy, stayed in the city past eight years. His family discovered about the woman when she started answering his phone calls and blocked the numbers of his family members. A case of abetment of suicide is registered against the woman at Rajagopal Nagar police station.

HELPLINE

If you are having suicidal thoughts, or are worried about a friend or need emotional support, someone is always there to listen. Call Sneha Foundation - 04424640050, Tele Manas - 14416 (available 24x7) or Call, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' helpline - 02225521111

5-yr-old girl dies after gate falls on her in B'luru

One more girl critical, two others escape with minor injuries, house owner questioned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A five-year-old girl died after a compound wall and the iron gate attached to it fell on her at the building she was staying in at Dwarakanagar in Chikkabanavara around 5.30 pm on Friday.

While another girl was critically injured, two others escaped with minor injuries. The children, who are related, are staying with their parents. The parents of the deceased girl, Ghousia, are footpath vendors. The family from Hospet in Vijayanagara district moved into the house five months ago. Sumaiya is seriously injured, while two other children escaped with minor injuries.

Ghousia and Sumaiya were playing swing on the gate, which is around 2.5 feet in height, when it fell on them.

Ghousia died on the spot, while Sumaiya was shifted to a hospital, where her condition is said to be critical. The two girls were playing outside the compound wall, while the two others were inside. Ghousia's body was shifted to the Victoria Hospital mortuary for the postmortem.

Ghousia's parents Imam and Ravija sell fruits on the pavement at a bus stand near their house. The police have questioned Ravishankar, the owner of the house. A case of unnatural death has been registered by the Chikkabanavara police.



KEEPING DRY

A woman shields the rider and herself with an umbrella during the brief showers that hit Bengaluru on Saturday evening | VINOD KUMAR T

Hotel worker killed, four critical in early morning fire in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: A 45-year-old hotel employee was killed and four others sustained severe injuries after a fire broke out in a three-storey hotel building at Malagala near Nagarabhatti in the early hours of Saturday. The deceased, Raj Kumar, was from Madhya Pradesh and had joined the hotel just 15 days ago. The injured, Bhima, Shivanand, Satish and another worker, are said to be in critical condition. The fire broke out around 1.30 am on the ground floor of the hotel, where staff rooms are located. Five employees were asleep in the room when the blaze, suspected to be triggered by a short-circuit. The police said Raj died as he had inhaled poisonous gases and because of his injuries, while the four others are being treated. ENS

Child marriage halted after boyfriend tips off child welfare department

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE Urban The marriage of a 16-year-old minor girl to a 33-year-old man was stopped in the city by the Urban District Child Protection Office. The officials said the girl's family had fixed her wedding for May 11 at Poornima Mahal in the Chandra Layout police limits.

The family emotionally coerced and convinced the girl to get into the wedlock as her

mother's kidneys have failed and she is on dialysis. The officials said she informed her boyfriend, who alerted a Kanara outfit, and tipped off the Child Protection Department.

The officials rushed to her house on May 7 and got the undertaking from the family that they will cancel the marriage.

"The girl would have been married had the department not stepped in. The staff rushed to the home near Nagarabhatti

and educated the family about the Child Marriage Act and the consequences the family could face. We also educated that child marriage could lead to health complications and emotional discord between the couple due to age difference," said Asha HK, District Child Protection Officer, Kengeri Division, Bengaluru Urban District. The groom may face action under the Child Marriage Act for agreeing to marry a minor.

The officer said that the mother of the child was emotionally charged as the wedding hall was booked and all the preparations were made. "The woman threatened to kill herself as staff informed the family about taking the child under custody. The staff then got an undertaking signed by father Lokesh R, stating that the family would cancel the marriage and wait till the girl attains the legal age for marriage.

They must also appear before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) next week.

To make sure the child is safe, the jurisdictional police will visit her home every day till the family appears before the CWC," said the officer. The department official said some activists who alerted the department about the child marriage are reportedly receiving threat calls and they were told to file a police complaint.



Golden Opportunity to own a Plot in Madikeri Town



Sri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Karnataka Housing Board and M/s. Pratipati Projects Private Limited Joint Venture Project CAUVERY TOWNSHIP

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME

Developers: SRC Infra Developers Private Limited



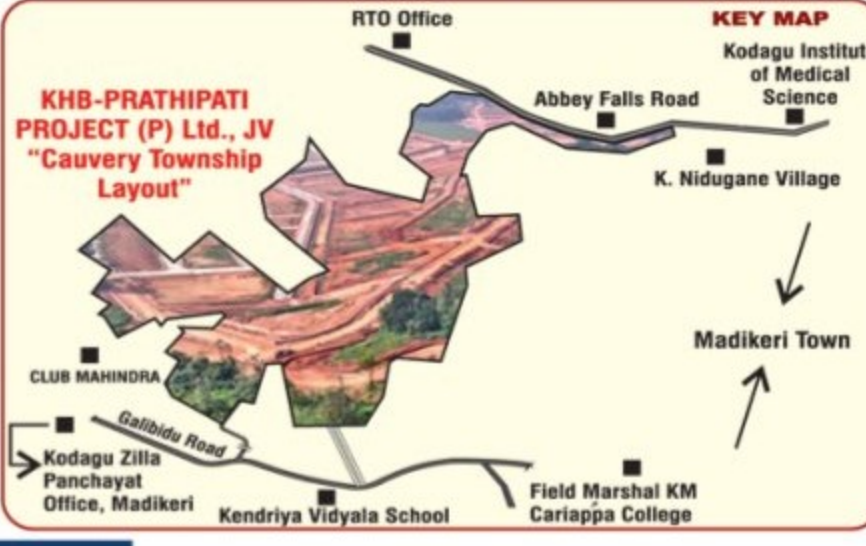
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf & Minority Welfare, **Sri B. Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan** and Chairman of the Karnataka Housing Board **Sri K. M. Shivalinge Gowda**, Discussing the progress on Housing Projects at the Board Meeting



Scan here for Layout Location

RERA Approved Number: PRM/KA/RERA/1264/437/PR/110325/007577





Layout Features

- 9m, 12m, 15m & 18 Mtrs. Wide Roads
- Street Layout Electrification
- Water supply and drainage system with Sewerage Treatment Plant
- Gardens and playgrounds
- Reserved Plots for Civic Amenities (Public/Semi-Public)
- Well planned Layout surrounded by abundant greenery

Convenient Location of Layout

- Adjoining to Madikeri Town
- KSRTC Bus Stand
- Vivus Hospital
- More Supermarket
- Kendriya Vidyalaya
- Kodagu Medical College Institute
- Field Marshal KM Cariappa College

Loan Facility is available from Banks

Tourist spots near Layout

- Abbey Falls
- Mandalpatti
- Raja Seat
- Sri Omkareshwara Swamy Temple

Karnataka Housing Board

Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Tele Phone: 080-2227 3511

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಗೃಮಂ/ಕಾ/ಹಂಚಿಕೆ/ಮದ್ಯಂತರ ನಿವೇಶನ/2026-27

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnataka Housing Board in collaboration with Prathipati Projects Private Limited, Bangalore has developed a residential estate with all basic and public facilities in a total area of 94.45 acres of land including various survey numbers in K. Nidugane village, Madikeri city, Kodagu district under a joint venture (Marketing JV) scheme. Applications are invited from the public online for the allotment of the following categories of plots in the said estate. The details of the properties available for allotment are as follows.

Location and District	Category and measurement (in Meters)	Estimated Plots	Registration Fee (₹)	Initial Deposit (₹)	Price per Sq. Ft (₹)
K. Nidugane Village, Madikeri Hobli, Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu District	EWS - 6.0 x 9.0 M	32	300/-	50,000/-	775/-
	LIG - 9.0 x 12.0 M	179	500/-	1,75,000/-	1,550/-
	MIG - 9.0 x 9.0 x 15.0 M	83	1,000/-	2,00,000/-	
	HIG-I - 12.0 x 18.0 M	139	1,500/-	2,50,000/-	
	HIG-II - 15.0 x 24.0 M	26	1,500/-	2,50,000/-	

Applications can be submitted through the board's website <https://www.khb.karnataka.gov.in> from 15-05-2026 to pay the registration fee and initial deposit through e-payment. **The last date for submission of applications is 16-06-2026.**

Terms and Conditions:

- 1) Interested public can submit online application for Madikeri project by paying registration fee and initial deposit through e-payment.
- 2) Applicants who have previously paid registration fee for houses and plots in Madikeri project in the demand survey on 29-06-2009 can also pay the prescribed initial deposit amount online to be eligible for allotment of this project. Since houses are not constructed in the said project, applicants who have applied for Madikeri project for houses will also be considered for allotment of plots.
- 3) Vacant plots including irregular plots in the said layout will be considered for e-lottery. Once a plot is allotted, no alternative plot will be allowed for any reason.
- 4) The properties will be allotted through category wise e-lottery as per Rule 9 of Karnataka Housing Board Allocation Regulations 1983.
- 5) Those who apply for reservation under the respective category (SC/ST/Defence/Ex-service, Central Govt, Phy-challenged person, Senior Citizen, others) should submit the documents along with the application.
- 6) If the applicant who applied in the demand survey dated 29.06.2009 also requested category wise reservation, the documents issued by the competent authority should be submitted along with the application.
- 7) If the amount paid is less than the prescribed initial deposit, such applications will not be considered for e-lottery.
- 8) At the time of application, the applicant should be a resident of the state of Karnataka for a period of not less than 10 years.
- 9) The applicant should upload a notarized affidavit stating that the applicant, his/her spouse and children have not obtained any flat/house/plot from the Karnataka Housing Board or any other local body/authority.
- 10) Applicants for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) plots should obtain an income certificate from the concerned Tahsildar stating that their annual family income does not exceed Rs. 1,20,000/- for those residing in rural areas and Rs. 2,00,000/- for those residing in urban areas and submit it along with the application.
- 11) The properties will be allotted on outright sale basis.
- 12) The total number of properties mentioned in the advertisement and the category wise properties are subject to change at the time of allotment. The Karnataka Housing Board reserves the right to do so.
- 13) The initial deposit paid along with the application will be refunded without any interest to the applicants whose sites are not allotted. Or if more applications are received than the sites available for allotment, the remaining applications after allotment of the available sites will be considered for allotment of 60% of the sites released in the project at the revised rate. In this regard, the applicants whose sites are not allotted will have to give a separate consent letter for refund after allotment or consideration for allotment of the remaining 60% sites.
- 14) In case of cancellation after allotment, 25% of the initial deposit will be refunded after forfeiting the money.
- 15) The project has been designed and constructed in accordance with the land elevation and during the construction of the building, appropriate retaining walls and foundations according to the soil bearing capacity (without affecting the technical and technological environment) shall be constructed and the design plan shall be approved by the Madikeri Urban Development Authority subject to the condition that permission from the concerned local body and technical opinion from the authority shall be obtained before the construction of the building in the design. Therefore, the above condition of the authority shall be applicable for the construction of the building in the allotted sites.
- 16) As per the condition imposed in the order number: V.E. 39 K.G.M. 2016 Bangalore dated: 28-04-2016, if any disputes arise in this project, the private developers shall resolve them. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements, which have been maintained by paying only marketing fees for the development of the project as per the government approval, the joint venture partner, Me: Pratipati Projects Private Limited, Bangalore, is solely responsible for the management of the assets allocated in the said layout and the layout and also for handing over the layout to the local body for further management.
- 17) For further information regarding the assets, the Joint Venture Project Partners may contact (a) **Shri Dayanand K.B., Manager, Tel. No.: 9739946532** (b) **Gururaj Site Engineer, Tel. No.: 9686202507**. And for details regarding allocation and submission of application, the **Assistant Executive Engineer/Revenue Officer, K.M.M., Kodagu Sub-Division, Mysore Office** in person or through **Tel. No.: 0821-2343094/0821-2543237**.

90-yr-old killed, body dumped in septic tank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

A 90-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her close acquaintance, who later dumped her body in a septic tank at his house, as she was allegedly demanding that he return the money she had lent him. The incident occurred at a village in KR Nagar of Mysuru district.

The police said that Gowramma, who was living in Tippur village, was allegedly killed by Veerabhadra, a 50-year-old farmer from the same village. Gowramma had been living alone as she had distanced herself from her three children. To earn a living, she lent money on interest and did farming. Veerabhadra, who was reportedly close to her for nearly 15 years, helped her in managing her farmland and daily needs.

Some two weeks ago, Veerabhadra sought money from Gowramma for personal work. She withdrew Rs 75,000 and

lent it to him after he assured her that he would pay her back within two days.

But when he failed to return the money even after a week, Gowramma reportedly started pressuring him which led to frequent arguments between them. On April 27, Veerabhadra allegedly visited her house, strangled her to death, and later dumped her body in the newly constructed septic toilet pit at his residence, the police said.

When Gowramma was not seen in the village for many days, her children filed a missing person's complaint with the police. During the investigation, the police found out that Veerabhadra was close to the elderly woman, but had gone missing, raising a strong suspicion from the police.

The police traced him on Friday. During the interrogation, Veerabhadra confessed to the murder and gave the police the location of the body.



Farmer's son tops IFS exam, B'gavi erupts in celebration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

In a moment of immense pride for Belagavi, **Basavaraj Dhareppa Kempawad** from Savadi village in Athani taluk has secured All India Rank 1 in the prestigious Indian Forest Service (IFS) examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.

The results were announced on Friday. The success of Basa-

varaj, son of a farmer, has become an inspiring example of perseverance, determination and rural talent. Relatives, friends and villagers gathered at his residence to congratulate the family.

Basavaraj completed his primary education in Savadi village before pursuing further studies in Athani town. He later moved to Sirsi for his gradua-



tion and shifted to Bengaluru to prepare for the UPSC examinations. Basavaraj told *TNSE*, "Coming from a rural background and studying in a Morarji school, reaching this stage gives me immense pride and happiness. If one has determination, poverty can never become an obstacle to success," he said.

This was Basavaraj's second attempt and he cleared it with flying colours without joining any coaching institute or special training programme.

His father Dhareppa Kempawad said, "We are a small farming family. Despite financial difficulties, we never compromised on our children's education. I took land on lease and worked hard to educate them. His achievement is a moment of joy for us and our village."

DIVYA CUTINHO @Mangaluru

A Mangalorean sailor stranded in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz for more than a month amid intensifying US-Israel-Iran tensions finally returned home safely this week, along with his crew. The marine engineer—employed aboard an LPG carrier chartered for India—endured harrowing conditions while traversing one of the world's most volatile maritime corridors.

The sailor had set sail from Mangaluru on October 22, 2025, with an expected return date of



March 31, 2026. However, heavy clashes in the Strait of Hormuz compelled the vessel to anchor, pushing his homecoming back by more than a month.

3-yr-old sleeps under sofa, panicky parents alert cops

MANDYA: A three-year-old child who had fallen asleep under a sofa while playing at home triggered panic among family members, who later alerted police claiming the child had been taken. The incident was reported from Ganjam in Srirangapatna taluk in Mandya district. The child had been playing inside the house while the parents were occupied with household chores. Tired after playing, the child reportedly crawled under a sofa and fell asleep unnoticed. After some time, the parents began searching for the child. Unable to locate the child, they contacted the 112 emergency helpline and informed police that the child had allegedly been kidnapped. Acting swiftly on the complaint, police personnel rushed to the house and conducted a thorough search of the premises and surrounding area. During the inspection, they discovered the child sleeping beneath the sofa inside the house.



The mangled remains of the car on the Tumakuru-Maddur State Highway

Four of Mandya family killed as car crashes into truck

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tumakuru

Four members of a family from Mandya were killed in a head-on collision between a car and truck on the Tumakuru-Maddur State Highway (SH-33) on Saturday afternoon.

The accident occurred between Honnenahalli and Jiganipalya villages around 2.45 pm. The car in which the victims were travelling collided with the truck bound for Tumakuru. All the four died on the spot. The deceased have been identified as Kumar Narasimhaswamy (65), his wife KR

Gayathri (60), his sister Gayathri (59), and their relative Raghukumar (50), who was driving the vehicle. All were residents of Swarnasandra Colony in Mandya town. The police said the family was returning home after offering a special pooja to their family deity at the Narasimhaswamy temple atop the Devarayana-durga hills near Tumakuru, to mark the couple's 25th wedding anniversary.

Local residents said the Tumakuru-Maddur stretch of SH-33, has become accident-prone and has witnessed a series of mishaps in recent times.

Indian Navy guided us out through "Operation Urja Suraksha," he said. The vessel had adequate stocks of food, water, medicines, and fuel, though additional supplies were procured in Sharjah as a precaution, he said.

However, he also mentioned that around 13 Indian registered ships, with approximately 450 crew members, are still stuck there. While there may be a ceasefire, essential supplies are dwindling, and these are not combatants. He urged the authorities to prioritise their safe return.

EXPRESS READ

St Philomena's students bring laurels in ICSE

BENGALURU: Six students from St Philomena's Public School, a CISCE-affiliated institution, scored exemplarily in the ICSE examination 2025-2026. The school also achieved a 100% pass rate this year. Lavanya V scored 95.4%, A Sanjana 95.2%, Harthisth V 94.8%, Lakshya R 94.4%, and HM Rohithreddy and Harshavardhana DH each scored 94%.

Salonee School records 100% SSLC pass rate

BENGALURU: Salonee School in VP Nagar has recorded a 100% pass rate in the SSLC examination for the academic year 2025-26, according to its chairman Hassan Ali. Among the students, 14 passed with distinction while 30 secured first class. The top five scorers are Raksha R (94.88%), Arjun (93.44%), Vedavathi (92.96%), S Sanjana (92.64%) and Smrutirekha Nayak (92.48%). The students were felicitated by vice-chairman Mohammed Irfan Hyder and principal Anuradha S Raju.



From top left: Raksha R, Arjun, Vedavathi, S Sanjana, Smrutirekha Nayak

FOCUS FEATURE

Where Vision Meets Hospitality: The Inspiring Journey of Sudeesh Srinivas

A Journey Rooted in Discipline and Determination

From the industrious outskirts of Bengaluru to the refined world of hospitality, Sudeesh Srinivas has built a journey defined by clarity, conviction, and purpose. As Chairman of Thanishq Grande Hotels and Resorts Pvt. Ltd., he represents a new generation of entrepreneurs who believe in creating opportunities rather than waiting for them. Raised in a disciplined household, he was influenced by his father, Srinivasappa, a school teacher who valued education and stability. While a conventional career path was expected, Sudeesh chose entrepreneurship, guided by self-belief and a desire to create meaningful impact.



Early Foundations in Entrepreneurship

Before entering hospitality, Sudeesh built his entrepreneurial base in poultry farming. Over five years, his ventures expanded steadily and generated livelihoods for nearly 500 people. This phase shaped his understanding of labour, operational discipline, and financial prudence. It also strengthened his ability to identify emerging opportunities and reinforced a core principle: sustainable growth must be rooted in people, process, and persistence. Family: The Backbone of His Vision Behind his journey stood a strong family foundation. His wife, Hemalatha, played a vital role in managing finances and supporting decisions at every stage. His sons, Keerthan, a civil engineer, and Thanishq, a doctor, reflect the family's expanding aspirations and commitment to professional excellence. Together, they formed a resilient support system that enabled calculated risk-taking and long-term vision.

The Spark for Hospitality

The transition into hospitality came from observation and insight. During a visit to Delhi, a stay at a Holiday Inn property left a lasting impression on Sudeesh Srinivas. He was inspired by its efficiency, consistency, and guest-centric approach. Recognizing a gap in quality accommodation in Bengaluru's industrial belt, he identified Bommasandra near Narayana Health as a strategic location. This led to the creation of Holiday Inn Express Bommasandra, a 135-room select-service hotel designed for business travellers, medical visitors, and families.

Building Holiday Inn Express Bommasandra

The property was envisioned as a functional yet comfortable hospitality space. Today, it accommodates nearly 200 guests daily and



has become a trusted destination in the region. With structured rooms, reliable services, and consistent guest experience, it stands as a benchmark for select-service hospitality in Bengaluru's industrial corridor.

Trials, Transformation, and Resilience

The journey to completion was marked by significant challenges. Construction began just before the Covid-19 pandemic, turning a planned one-year project into a three-year struggle. Rising costs, halted work, and financial strain nearly pushed the project into distress. Despite setbacks, Sudeesh remained committed, investing personal savings to sustain progress. Support from

the State Bank of India helped stabilise operations during critical phases.

His son Keerthan supervised construction with technical precision, while Hemalatha ensured financial discipline. Their combined efforts transformed adversity into achievement, resulting in a completed property that stands as a symbol of resilience and teamwork.

A Purpose-Driven Hospitality Model

What distinguishes Sudeesh's approach is attention to operational detail and guest experience. Unlike typical select-service hotels, the property includes a fully functional in-house kitchen ensuring fresh food, a self-service laundromat for convenience, and robust security systems for guest safety. The hotel is preferred by professionals associated with major corporate hubs such as Infosys, TVS, and Biocon, maintaining consistent operational efficiency and service quality.

Expansion and the Next Phase

The journey now moves into expansion. A major milestone is the upcoming Holiday Inn project in Sriperumbudur, Chennai, developed in collaboration with IHG Hotels & Resorts. This 200-key property, expected to open in 2029, will serve business travellers, transit guests, and spiritual tourists in one of Tamil Nadu's key industrial hubs. It strengthens the brand's presence in South India's fast-growing commercial corridors and aligns with global hospitality standards.

Redefining Hospitality Through Experience

Beyond expansion, the focus remains on enhancing guest experience. Every detail—from design to service delivery—is shaped with intent. The emphasis is on creating intuitive, comfortable, and efficient environments that respond to evolving traveller expectations. For Sudeesh Srinivas, hospitality is not just infrastructure but the quality of experience delivered to each guest.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients Smt. Pushpa and others have filed the above petition for death certificate of Smt. Muniyamma W/o Late Munivarkappa @Kuntappa was died on 11/11/1996 Residing at Palay village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Addl Civil Judge and J.M.F.C. at Devanahalli and date of hearing on 24-6-2026 at 11:40 A.M. in C.Ms. No. 146/2026.

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Court, Devanahalli Sri Ashok M.G. and Gangadhar, C., Advocate

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यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

(A Government of India Undertaking)

UNION BANK OF INDIA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 30 days Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the dates mentioned below for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s)

The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits are also mentioned hereunder.

Union Bank of India, Varthur Branch,
No. 64 & 65, Dharamaraya Swamy Temple Road, Muthasandra Main Road, Varthur, Bengaluru-560087, Email ID: ubin082479@unionbankofindia.bank.in

1. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor: 1. Mr. Ravi S V S/o Late Venkatappa, No 22 Chikkabayya Layout, Samethnahalli, Dist: Bangalore 560067, Karnataka-India, 2. Mr. Madhukar M V, No 22 Chikkabayya Layout, Samethnahalli, Dist: Bangalore 560067, Karnataka-India.

Amount Due : Rs.73,12,634 /- (Rupees Seventy Three Lakh Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Four only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest from 01-05-2026, cost

Description of the Secured Assets: Schedule-A: All that part and parcel of the property bearing- Site No.240, having BBMP Khatna Number 733/240, Old Khatna Number 733, situated at Kadugodi village, previously Mahadevapura CMC, Bidarhalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, within the limits of BBMP, Mahadevapura ward, Bangalore, measuring East to West 33 ft, North to South 40 feet 6 inches, in total measuring 1336.5 sq ft and the residential building constructed thereon, bounded by: East by: Road and then Bibi Jan's House, West by: Property of Lakshmaiah, North by: Property of Bhagawath Singh, South by: 7 1/2 x 33 feet vacant site, then house belongs of Nagamunishetty.

Reserve Price: Rs.93,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Three Lakh only) EMD: Rs.9,30,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Thirty Thousand only)

For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Varthur Branch, Contact No: 9895329478

Union Bank of India, Kodathi Branch
Site No. 117/1, Kodathi Gate, Bangalore East Taluka, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru- 560 035 Mob : 9653630421, E-Mail ID: ubin0830429@unionbankofindia.bank

2. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor: 1. Rayan Ahmed, Address : Flat No. 103, Sumukha Vridhhi, Central Excise Layout, Phase 2, Near Amoda Apartment, Tejaswini Nagar, Bangalore South, PO : Gottigere, Dist : Bangalore - 560 083.

Amount Due : Rs.91,32,995.56 (Rupees Ninety One Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Paise Fifty Six only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses

Description of the Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of property site No. 7, formed in Sy No. 208, Kengeri Village Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk situated at Kengeri Village and measuring East to West : 56.00 Feet and North to South 29.00 Feet in all measuring 1624 sq.ft. and bounded as follows : East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No. 7A, South by : Remaining Portion of the Same.

Reserve Price: Rs.90,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Lakh Only) EMD: Rs.9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh only)

For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Kodathi Branch, Contact No: 9653630421

Date and Time of E-auction 12.06.2026 (12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.)
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for Submission of EMD : On or before commencement of e-auction E-auction website- <https://baanknet.com>

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com> and <http://www.unionbankofindia.co.in>
The online E-auction will be held through website: <https://baanknet.com>
Date: 04.05.2026
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri.B.Narayana and Sri.B. Somashekar have entered into a Sale Agreement dated 18.04.2026 to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner/s 1) Sri.K.G.Ram Prakash, 2) Smt.K.G.Gayathri Devi, 3) Sri.Kalos Gundurao Ramamanoah, 4) Smt.K.G.Anusuya, 5) Smt.K.G.Pramila, 6) Smt.K.G.Padmasree, 7) Smt.K.G.Sujatha and 8) Smt.K.G.Vijayarathna. My clients intend to avail Housing loan from Kotak Mahindra Bank by mortgaging the Schedule Property.

If any person/s or financial institutions have any objections claims, right, title, interest over the schedule property, may file their objections in the undersigned address along with documentary proof within 7 (Seven) days, from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, they will proceed further without being liable for any claims put forth thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Property bearing PID.No.7859/23218, Property No.432/3, Site No.432, formed by BDA at V Block, Rajajinagar Extension, situated at 64th Cross Road, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560 010, measuring East to West : 25 ft., and North to South : 40 ft., in all 1000 Sq.ft., within the revenue limits of BBMP, Bangalore, and bounded as follows:
On the East by : Site bearing No.431, West by Site bearing No.433, North by : Road, South by Site bearing No.427.

RAVI M.B, ADVOCATE
66, 10th Main, 5th Cross, S.K.Layout, Jnanajyothinagar, Bangalore-560056. Mob.No.9036074066

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that my Clients 1. Sri.Chikkanarasimiah S/o. Late. Kariyappa, aged about 68 years, 2. Smt. Hombakka W/o. Chikkanarasimiah, aged about 63 years, 3. Smt. Lakshmidevi D/o. Chikkanarasimiah, aged about 48 years, 4. Sri. Nagaraju S/o. Chikkanarasimiah, aged about 46 years, 5. Smt. Shashikala W/o. Nagaraju, aged about 42 years, 6. Kum. Punith S/o. Nagaraju, aged about 18 years, 7. Kumari. Lakshmi D/o. Nagaraju, aged about 16 years, minor represented by father/natural guardian Sri. Nagaraju, guardian Sri. Nagaraju, 8. Sri. Murthy S/o. Chikkanarasimiah, aged about 44 years, 9. Smt. Mamatha W/o. Murthy, aged about 38 years, 10. Kum. Gurudev S/o. Murthy, aged about 17 years, minor represented by father/natural guardian Sri. Murthy, 11. Kumari. Monisha D/o. Murthy, aged about 15 years, minor represented by father/natural guardian Sri. Murthy, 12. Smt. Nagarathna D/o. Chikkanarasimiah, aged about 42 years, all are residents of Dyalalinganapalle Village, Hejjala Dakle, Bidadi Hobli Ramnagar Taluk and District have cancelled/revoked the General Power of Attorney Executed in favour of Sri.Kariyappa S/o.Late.Chikkananna, Aged about 70 years, I/c: No.548 Chandrayya, 4th Main, West of Cord Road, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshimpuram, Bengaluru-560 086 in respect of the property mentioned below in the schedule, which was registered as document No.RMN-4-00109-2014-15, in Book No.4, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar - Ramnagar, dated: 21/06/2014 is hereby revoked/cancelled and terminated with immediate effect.

Hence, the said Sri. Kariyappa, S/o Late Chikkananna, has no manner of right, authority or interest to deal with the schedule property mentioned below.

Any transaction undertaken by him on and from 08/05/2026 in respect of the schedule property shall be treated as null, void and not binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural dry land measuring to an extent of 12 guntas in Sy. No.66/20 situated at Hejjala Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramnagar Taluk & Ramnagar District (Now Bengaluru South District) and bounded on : East by: Land of Narasimhamurthy, West by: Land of Narasimamiah, North by: Land of Chikkarevantha & Dasappa, South by: Land of Chikkanarasimiah.

A.R.T. ASSOCIATES, Advocate
No.102, 1st Floor, Amar Tower, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009.
Mob: 9850214208, 98888993
Email: abenareshtes@gmail.com
Date: 08.05.2026

STALIN LAUDS CPI, CPM, VCK FOR HELPING TVK GOVT, SLAMS CONG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

ON a day when the TVK secured majority support to form the government, outgoing chief minister and DMK president M K Stalin and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami issued separate statements extending their warm greetings to the incoming Vijay-led dispensation.

Palaniswami's statement, issued in the afternoon, effectively put to rest the possibilities about the AIADMK and the DMK, along with some allies, attempting to form the government. In his statement on Saturday, Stalin welcomed the decision of the DMK alliance partners - CPI, CPM, VCK, and IUML - to extend support to the TVK government, saying their stand deserved respect and would ensure political stability in the state.

He, however, criticised the Congress, stating that MLAs who had contested and won as part of the DMK-led alliance did not visit Anna Arivalayam (DMK headquarters) to express gratitude after the results. "In a single day, the Congress severed its relationship with the DMK and walked away," he said. Stalin noted that although the Secular Progres-



TVK and VCK supporters celebrate outside VCK party headquarters in Chennai | PM

sive Alliance led by the DMK had fallen short of majority, the alliance had secured a significant vote share. Recalling his earlier statement that the DMK would not obstruct the formation of the new government, he said the party would function as a constructive Opposition.

He also praised the Left parties and the VCK for standing by the alliance. Referring to statements made by Left leaders P Shanmugam (CPM) and M Veerapandian (CPI), along with VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, Stalin said their decision to remain in the DMK-

led alliance while extending support to the TVK regime reflected their trust in the DMK's ideological politics.

Stalin expressed gratitude to alliance leaders Khader Mohideen (IUML), Vaiko (MDMK), Premalatha Vijayakant (DMDK), Professor M H Jawahirulla (MMK), E R Eswaran (KMDK) and Thamimur Ansari (MJK) for standing with the party during the critical phase. Appealing to the incoming government to continue the welfare schemes implemented during the DMK's five-year tenure, he said the initiatives had benefited women, youth, students, children, marginalised communities and employees.

No Cong MLAs from TN in Bengaluru, says DKS

BENGALURU: Refuting rumours that Congress MLAs from Tamil Nadu were in a resort in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that he has no information about Tamil Nadu affairs. "It is false that Congress MLAs from Tamil Nadu have come to Bengaluru. I have no information about Tamil Nadu affairs", he told reporters. Rumours were circulating that the MLAs had arrived at Eagleton Resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru. "No MLAs have come to Eagleton Resort. Eagleton Resort has been closed for renovation. Some are saying they went to Hyderabad, while others are saying they came to Bengaluru. I saw this in the media. If the party's High Command gives any direction, I will follow it. The High Command has not spoken to me about anything. I had gone to Tamil Nadu for a manifesto release and campaigning," he said. Shivakumar visited Saneeswaran temple at Thirunallar in Pudukkottai on Saturday. "I have come and prayed here so that the state and country, all be prosperous," he said after the visit. On the Congress-DMK alliance that strained after the former party aligned with Vijay Joseph's TVK, he clarified that the Congress is committed to its ideological stand. **ENS**

BAIL DENIED FOR BOTH

Mysuru fraudster bought Kodagu farmhouse for GF

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

THE CID investigation into a Rs 3.10 crore cheating case in the guise of online trading revealed that one of the accused, Shivakumar S (28) from Mysuru, purchased a farmhouse in the name of his lover-accused Disha at Hagara in Virajpet and had settled there. He used local youngsters to open accounts in different banks and used them to defraud his victims. These were the facts raised by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to oppose anticipatory bail to Shivakumar, a resident of Mandi Mohalla, and his girlfriend Disha (27), residing at Lokanayaka Nagar in Mysuru.

Shivakumar's victim, Samson John, had filed a complaint at the East CEN Crime police station in Bengaluru, stating that some unknown persons had contacted him through Facebook, Telegram and WhatsApp, representing themselves as trading brokers and convinced him to transact through Plus500 Global, a fraudulent trading app. They made him invest Rs 3.10 crore, but refused to refund it.

The probe revealed that in one of the transactions, John had transferred Rs 5.30 lakh into the account of an accused through RTGS. Soon after receiving it, the accused had transferred the money to 15 dif-

ferent accounts the same day. The CID had issued a notice to all the secondary beneficiaries to furnish information. One of the beneficiaries was an advocate, practising in Delhi, who had received Rs 5 lakh. He told the CID sleuths that the money was toward his legal fee from Shivakumar, who was also involved in another case of cyber fraud at a court at Mysuru.

The CID found that Shivakumar had shared the details of accounts, which had been opened by local youngsters, with those residing in foreign countries. Shivakumar visited Dubai regularly and carried account kits with him to share with his victims. Shivakumar was trading in cryptocurrency. When the police searched his premises, they recovered a laptop, mobiles, hard disc, debit & credit cards belonging to 30 different banks. All of it was seized on April 16, 2026.

Shivakumar has nine accounts in his name, 12 accounts in the name of his companion Disha. Nine accounts belong to different persons.

Judge rejects plea of accused

Noting that evidence collected during the investigation would make out a prima facie case against the accused, Judge Nirmala Devi dismissed the anticipatory bail petitions of Shivakumar and Disha recently.



Dr M Thimmie Gowda, President of the Karnataka Pradesh Arya Idigara Sangha and Chairman of Sri Sudha Co-operative Bank Ltd, along with his daughter Sunita Thimmegowda, Managing Trustee of Aditya Ram Foundation and Savitramma Thimmegowda Trust, and son-in-law Ashok Shankar, President of the All India Circus Federation, felicitated Her Royal Highness Princess Aswathy Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi of the Travancore royal family in Bengaluru. The meeting also included discussions on social initiatives and collaborative efforts for community welfare. **ENS**

EXPRESS READ

Odisha mob lynching: Majhi slams police

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday gave the police top brass a piece of his mind over the mob lynching of a GRP constable on Bhubaneswar outskirts and handed over probe to the Crime Branch. After arriving from Kolkata, the CM summoned the top officers and expressed his displeasure in strongest possible words over the poor police response to the violence which has drawn nationwide outrage. The meeting was attended by chief secretary Anu Garg, additional chief secretary, Home department Hemant Sharma, and others. **ENS**

KC ahead with support of 45-plus MLAs

CONTINUED FROM 3

The Kerala CM deadlock remained unresolved even after top leaders held nearly three hours of discussions with the frontrunners. Rahul was unhappy that lobbying had begun almost immediately after the election results, saying the leaders could not wait even a few days for the leadership's decision. He asked them to rein in the workers. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul held separate one-on-one meetings with the contenders. Sources said Venugopal may have an edge, since he has the backing of more than 45 newly elected MLAs. As per Congress convention, the leadership generally weighs legislators' preferences heavily while selecting a CM. Venugopal is learnt to have told the leadership that he has always adhered to the party line, and contested both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha elections at Rahul's direction. Satheesan, meanwhile, argued that he had led the UDF to a stunning victory of 103 seats despite not being on an equal footing with Venugopal, who, as part of the organisation, had greater leverage. **ENS**

MAHAVITARAN
Tenders are invited for supply of 22 kV Ring Main Units through e-tendering process with Estimated Cost of Rs. 893 Lakhs against MSIEDCL advertised Tender on website vide No. MMD/IT-NTM1-02/0526 due for submission on dtd. 25/05/2026.
For details please visit website:
<https://etender.mahadiscom.in/eatApp/>

TENDER NOTICE
S/d
HO PR 114 / 26 dtd. 08.05.2026. Chief Engineer (MMD)

IIIT Bhubaneswar
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.
(A University established by the Government of Odisha)

No.: IIIT-Bh/12545/26/Dir Date : 09.05.2026
ADMISSION (Ph.D)
IIIT Bhubaneswar is an ambitious initiative of the Government of Odisha to establish a next Generation Institute of Technology and has been conferred University status.
Application received date for Doctoral Programme (Ph.D) as follows :
Starting date of online application : 08th May 2026
Last date of submission of online application : 25th May 2026
Date of written test and interview : 28th - 29th May 2026
Date of publication of result : 05th June 2026
Date of provisional registration and commencement of classes : 1st July 2026
For further details, please visit : <https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/Admission/ph-d/>
DIRECTOR
AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department,
Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term tender Notification
(Through <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)
IFT No:03/2026-27 Date: 06-05-2025

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the under signed has invited itemised tender for 2-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contractors under PWD through kppp Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.792.40 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.81.39 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.11,88,600/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.1,62,780/- .Tender documents is downloaded from the <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> website from Dt: 06-05-2026 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is Dt: 29-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): Maximum 11-Months and Minimum 6-months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours .
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Special Division, Hunsur.
DIPR/DDMY/146/KSMCA/125/2026-27

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com
No. Tender ID Item
1. 2026_KMML_849312 1 Revamping of Earthing System
Chavara 09.05.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No.0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: idcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications for one post of Chief Engineer (Civil) on deputation basis from Central / State Governments and PSUs engaged in port and marine infrastructure operations, from eligible candidates with Degree or equivalent in Civil or Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University/Institution, serving as Chief Engineer or in a post one level below in the said organization and having 15 years experience in civil or mechanical engineering works including at least 10 years experience in the field of Harbour Engineering, Planning or Construction of harbours or maintenance and operation of different kinds of port machineries.
Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 01.06.2026. Preference will be given to eligible and qualified candidates from Lakshadweep, if available.
Please visit our Website: lakshadweep.gov.in for details.
08.05.2026 Sd/- General Manager

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 Email ID: spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal)
IFT No. 12/2026-27 Date: 06.05.2026
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 and above register contractor can apply under head of account 5054-80-190-01-132-KRDCL Repairs & Rehabilitation of Bridges for work of Repair/ Rehabilitation work of Bhadra River Bridge at ch 165.75 km on SH-65, Malpe Molakalmuru Road in Bhadravathi Taluk. (Indent No. 33058) for Amount put to tender is **Rs.156.62 Lakhs** and EMD amount is **Rs.2.35 Lakhs**. Time allowed for completion of work is 11 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPP-portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., <http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in>). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP-Portal from **07-05-2026 to 14-05-2026** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **14-05-2026 at 17.00 PM**. The Technical bid will be opened on **15-05-2026 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **16-05-2026** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/SMG/No. 31-05/ Zenkar/2026-27

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking
UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the dates mentioned below for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits are also mentioned hereunder.
Union Bank of India, Kasavanahalli Branch
D.No. 9/1 A, SVR Mansion, Kasavanahalli, Bangalore 560035, Mail ID: ubin0822183@unionbankofindia.bank

1. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.Chandan Singh, Permanent address:# No. 52, 3rd main road, Singapura layout, Vidyananyapura post, Near super market, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560097, Property address:# Flat No.103, 1st floor, Tejijh Elegant, Seegehalli village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East, Karnataka-560049
Amount Due :Rs. 81,35,810/-(Rupees EightyOne LakhThirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses.
Description of the Secured Assets: Schedule-A: All that piece and parcel of Residential 2 BHK apartment flat No. 103, situated onthe first floor, in the multistoried apartment building known as "Tejijh Elegant" measuring super built up area 1220 sqft (Undivided share of 447.60 sq ft) including of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts staircase and all other areas of common use along with a car parking and bounded on:East by : Open to Sky, West by : Open to Sky, North by : Flat No 102, South by : Flat No 104 .
Reserve Price:Rs.59,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Only)
EMD: Rs.5,90,000/-
(Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Thousand only)
For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Kasavanahalli Branch, Contact No: 9740613435
Union Bank of India, Doddakanahalli Branch
Shivuz Plaza,Sarjapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560035. E-mail: ubin0819921@unionbankofindia.bank

2. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
(1) Mr. Akber Bin Mohammed alias Akbar Bin Mohammed, Address 1: S/o Mohammed Bin Abdul Majid, D.No.67, 8th Main, Td Cross, Bikasipura, ISRO Layout, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore-560062, Address 2: 10-1-570/A, Chintal Basti, Khairathabad, Hyderabad- 500004, Telangana (2)Mr. Abdul Majid Bin Mohammed alias Majeed Bin Mohammed (Guarantor), Address 1: D.No.67, 8th Main, Td Cross, Bikasipura, ISRO Layout, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore-560062, Address 2: 10-1-570/A, Chintal Basti, Khairathabad, Hyderabad- 500004, Telangana.
Amount Due : Rs. 1,26,01,631.50/-(Rupees One Crore Twenty SixLakh One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty OnePaise Fifty only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest from 01-05-2026 cost and expenses
Description of the Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Immoveable property bearing Site No. 51 , New Corporation No. 192 76/1/51, having BBMP EPID No.9000966701 (Old PID No.76/1) situated at Vaddarapalya, Valagerehalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP Ullalu ward No. 130, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 50-0 feet, North to South: 30-0 feet, in all measuring 1500 Sq. feet vacant site , bounded on the: East by : Private property, West by : Road, North by :Site No 50, South by : Site No 52.

Reserve Price:Rs.1,55,25,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only)
EMD: Rs.15,52,500/-
(Rupees Fifteen Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred only).

3. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.Sri.Gopal Lal Baijiya, Address 1: No.16/2, 3rd cross, Near Sai Baba Temple, Nandini Layout, Kanteerava Nagar, Bangalore-560096, Address 2: Ward No. 05, Baijyan Ki Dhani, Nehru Nagar, Hudli, Didwana Kuchaman, Nagaur- 341509 (Rajasthan), 2. Kani Devi, Address 1: No.16/2, 3rd cross, Near Sai Baba Temple, Nandini Layout, Kanteerava Nagar,Bangalore-560096, Address 2: Ward No. 05, Baijyan Ki Dhani, Nehru Nagar, Hudli, Didwana Kuchaman, Nagaur- 341509 (Rajasthan),
Amount Due : Rs. 2,38,61,189.34(Rupees Two Crore Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Paise Fifty Four only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest from 01-05-2026, cost and expenses
Description of the Secured Assets: Schedule-A: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.7/12C, (Old House List Khatha No. 106/B) situated at Horamavu Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP Limits of Ward No.25, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 50 Feet and North to South : 80 Feet in all measuring 4,000 Sqft and bounded as follows: East by : Road and others Property, West by : Patel Shamanna Property, North by : Y Munirajappa Property, South by :Patel Shamanna Property.
Reserve Price:Rs.2,15,00,000/-
(Rupees Two Crore Fifteen Lakhs Only)
EMD: Rs.21,50,000/-
(Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Thousand only).
For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Doddakanahalli Branch Contact No: 6901865159

Union Bank of India, Club Road Koramangala Branch
No. 83, 17 D Main, 6th Cross, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560095
Mail ID : ubin0908204@unionbankofindia.bank

4. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
(1) Mr. Solomonraja, Flat No F-D, 1st Floor, Topaz Terraces, R K Township, Yarahdhalil Vil,Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tk, Bengaluru 560099 **Also at : a)** No:30, 1st Main Road, Vijaya Bank Colony,Dodda Banaswadi Bangalore 560043, **b)** No:8, Iitana Apartment, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore, 560016, **c)** Fly System Unsolution In Ltd No 13 Nehru Road Kammanahalli, Bangalore Karnataka ,560043, **d)** Block No :1, 1st Floor, Subbanapalya, Kullappa Circle, Bangalore - 560004, **e)** No: 503, Elegancy Apartments, R.K.Township, Bangalore 560099, **(2) Mrs. Leesha**, Flat No F-D 1st Floor, Topaz Terraces, R K Township, Yarahdhalil Vil,Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tk, Bengaluru-560099. **Also at :** a) No:30, 1st Main Road, Vijaya Bank Colony, Dodda Banaswadi Bangalore 560043, **b)** No:8, Iitana Apartment, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore, 560016.
Amount Due : Rs. 95,29,775.50(Rupees Ninety Five Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five Paise Fiftyonly) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses
Description of the Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the Flat No. F-D, 1st Floor, Site No 445 and 446, Topaz Terraces, R K Township, YarahdhalilVil, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru measuring 792 Sq.ft of super built up area and proportionate share in common areas such as passage, lobbies, lifts, stair case & other area of common use, together with car parking area in the basement floor and bounded on the East by : Site #427 & 428, West by: Road, North by : Site #447, South by : Site #444.

Reserve Price:Rs.16,10,000/-
(Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ten Thousand only)
EMD: Rs.1,61,000/-
(Rs One Lakh Sixty One Thousand only)

5. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.Mr. Hanumantha N, No. 57, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Reddipalya, Near HAL Hospital, Vimanapura Post, HAL Airport Sub Division,Bangalore-560017, **Alternate Address:** No.291, 1st Main Road, Near Sri Muneshwara Temple, Behind HAL Hospital, Reddy Palya, Vibhutipura, HAL Post, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560017, 2.Mrs. Gangamma, No. 57, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Reddipalya, Near HAL Hospital, Vimanapura Post, HAL Airport Sub Division,Bangalore-560017, **Alternate Address:** No.291, 1st Main Road, Near Sri Muneshwara Temple, Behind HAL Hospital, Reddy Palya, Vibhutipura, HAL Post, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560017.
Amount Due :Rs. 39,52,345.12 (Rupees Thirty NineLakh Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty FivePaise Twelve only) as on 30-04-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses.
Description of the Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 57, Khatha No.57, BBMP Khatha No.57 situated at Reddypalya, Vimanapura Post within the limits of BBMP, HAL Airport Sub Division, Bangalore, measuring "L" shape property, East to West 15+8/2 feet and North to South 23 feetand East to West 15 feet and North to South 12 feet in all totally "L" shape property measuring 444.50 Sq.ft and bounded by: East by : House of Sathyavardhan, West by : House of Somalish, North by : House of Manju, South by : Road

Reserve Price: Rs.54,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs only)
EMD: Rs.5,40,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Thousand only)
For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Club Road Koramangala Branch, Contact No: 9372706202/9918902868

Union Bank of India, Munnokollala Branch
No. 90, 6th Cross, Munnokollala Last Bus Stop, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore - 560 037, Mail ID : ubin0819522@unionbankofindia.bank

6. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.Mr. Veerendra Vaitla S/o Bhaskar Rao, # No 34, Ground Floor, 2nd D Cross, 7th Main, Nagendra Block, Near Martin Luther School, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bangalore-560050.
Amount Due : Rs. 1,20,67,620.13/-(Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Six Hundred TwentyPaise Thirteen only) as on 31-01-2026 with further interest from 01-01-2026, cost and expenses
Description of Property: Schedule A : All that piece and parcel of residential property Vacant Plot Site No 2 Assessment No 67/2, Property No 67/2, situated at Dasarahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West: 35-0 Feet and North to South : 60-0 Feet, Totally measuring 2100 Sq ft(1800 Sq.ft as per the actual valuation) and bounded as follows: East by : Site No. 1, West by : Site No. 3, North by : Road, South by : Private Property
Schedule B: 2100 Sq. ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule 'A' property
Schedule C
All that piece and parcel of Vacant Plot Site No 2 Assessment No 67/ 2, Property No 67/2, situated at Dasarahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West: 35-0 Feet and North to South : 60-0 Feet, Totally measuring 2100 Sq ft.

Reserve Price:Rs.1,57,95,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Fifty Seven Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Only)
EMD: Rs.15,79,500/-
(Rupees Fifteen Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only)

For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Munnokollala Branch, Contact No: 9441028222

Date and Time of E-auction 26.05.2026 (12.00 Noon to 5:00 P.M.)
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for Submission of EMD : On or before commencement of e-auction
E-auction website- <https://baanknet.com>
For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com> and <http://www.unionbankofindia.co.in>
The online E- auction will be held through website:<https://baanknet.com>

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India
Date: 04.05.2026
Place: Bangalore

NEED TO RECOGNISE THE LONG SHADOW BEYOND SINDOOR

ONE year after Operation Sindoor, it is perhaps appropriate to move beyond the immediate emotion and symbolism associated with the operation and examine what it may truly have achieved. Nations often celebrate military responses in the immediate aftermath of provocation, but strategic communities must ask harder questions. Did the operation fundamentally alter Pakistan's calculus? Has the infrastructure of proxy war weakened irreversibly? Or has the conflict merely entered another phase of adaptation and pause?

Operation Sindoor undoubtedly marked another milestone in the evolution of India's deterrence doctrine. Like Uri and Balakot before, it demonstrated that India was willing to impose costs for acts of terrorism linked to Pakistan-based groups and their support structures. Equally important was the manner in which the response was executed. India signalled resolve, both political and military, without recklessness, and retaliation without uncontrolled escalation. In an era when military action is scrutinised not only on the battlefield but also in diplomatic, informational and economic domains, this calibrated approach mattered.

Yet it would be strategically unwise to assume that one successful operation, however effective, can permanently transform the behaviour of an adversary whose statecraft has for decades relied upon irregular warfare. Pakistan's dependence on proxy war is not merely tactical; it is deeply structural. Conventional asymmetry vis-a-vis India, domestic political fragility, the centrality of the military establishment within Pakistan's power architecture and the enduring utility of jihadist groups as instruments of influence ensure that the temptation to revive proxy strategies never entirely disappears.

In fact, recent geopolitical developments in West Asia may produce precisely the kind of misplaced confidence that sections of Pakistan's deep state have historically exploited. Periods of turbulence in the Islamic world often generate narratives of strategic opportunity within Rawalpindi's security establishment. Diplomatic flux, sharpening ideological sentiment and renewed great-power competition can create the perception that international attention is fragmented and that proxy actors may once again operate within widened grey zones. Pakistan's establishment has repeatedly shown an ability to publicly deny sponsorship of terrorism while quietly sustaining the infrastructure that enables it.

History warns us against premature declarations of victory over terrorism. Terror ecosystems possess an extraordinary capacity for regeneration. They survive periods of pressure, disperse geographically, mutate organisationally and return in altered forms when geopolitical conditions become favourable again. The contemporary instability across West Asia once again carries the potential to energise extremist ecosystems globally. Even conflicts geographically distant from India can influence radical discourse within South Asia through digital ecosystems.

India cannot remain insulated from these currents. Technology is rapidly democratising the means of disruption. Cheap drones, encrypted communications, cyber coordination, AI-assisted propaganda and decentralised radicalisation networks are reshaping how proxy warfare may be conducted in the future. Already, security agencies have encountered increasing use of drones for movement of weapons, narcotics and financial assets across borders. Narco-terror networks now intersect with organised crime, arms trafficking and extremist financing in ways that blur distinctions between internal security and external aggression. Recruitment, indoctrination and operational guidance can increasingly occur remotely, often without physical contact.

For India, therefore, the challenge is not merely to respond to individual attacks but to sustain long-duration national resilience. Counter-terrorism can no longer be viewed only through the prism of military operations. Cultural and social understanding through deep analyses should be an area of focus. The continuing erosion of extremism and separatist sentiment in Jammu & Kashmir must remain an unwavering priority. Equally important is vigilance in the Northeast and on the Indo-Nepal border, where adversarial networks may seek new vulnerabilities, logistical routes and influence spaces. The contest is now as much about preventing ideological penetration and social fragmentation as it is about neutralising armed cadres.

Operation Sindoor demonstrated that India possesses political will and operational capability. But deterrence in the realm of proxy warfare is inherently more complex than conventional deterrence between armies. States employing proxies often calculate that deniability, ambiguity and time will eventually dilute the costs imposed upon them. India must, therefore, guard against triumphalism. Strategic success lies not in believing that proxy war has ended, but in ensuring that the adversary progressively loses both capability and confidence in using it effectively.

One year after Sindoor, the broader lesson is perhaps this. India seeks peace, stability and regional normalcy. But peace cannot rest upon illusion. The long war against terrorism will not be won through a single operation, however successful. It will be won through sustained national resolve, institutional adaptability and the ability to anticipate the changing character of conflict.

The shadow beyond Sindoor still exists. Recognising it clearly may be India's greatest strategic strength. *(Views are personal)*

Full article on newindianexpress.com

SAFFRON BENGAL NEEDS RAM RAJ



POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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IN the blazing midday sun on May 9, history did not merely turn a page at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground. It erupted in a saffron surge that scorched away over seven decades of ideological inertia. For the first time in West Bengal's storied annals, a saffron-clad stalwart ascended as Chief Minister. Suwendu Adhikari, 55, a celibate political phoenix who rose from the Trinamool Congress's daredevil ranks, strode forward in resplendent saffron to take his oath. His attire was no mere fabric. It was a defiant drape of cultural reclamation in a state long bound by Congress complacency, Marxist misrule and Mamata's machinations.

Moments earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had driven alongside him in a saffron-coloured, open-top motorised 'rath', a chariot of conquest specially forged for this occasion cutting through streets electric with anticipation. Before that, Governor R N Ravi, who had rarely donned traditional vestments during his Tamil Nadu tenure, stood resplendent in a saffron kurta paired with a flowing Bengali dhoti and offered his prayers to Rabindranath Tagore, whose birth anniversary fell on the day, along with his wife in a matching sari.

The entire pandal was transformed into a saffron sea of humanity: flags fluttering, scarves waving, foreheads marked with vermilion resolve. Adhikari and his five Cabinet ministers, each a study in saffron symmetry, embodied the new colour and new contours the state had so decisively

acquired. It wasn't just symbolism. It was a statement declaring Bengal's new cultural identity.

The mandate that propelled this moment was nothing short of a historic rupture. BJP's victory, securing 207 seats and a commanding 45 percent vote share, spoke not in whispers but in roars of righteous resentment. Voters came not for incremental tweaks but for total transformation. For Modi, Amit Shah and the RSS's loyalist cadre, this was more than electoral arithmetic. It was a cultural conquest that erased, in one sweeping stroke, 175 years of British imperial memory. Kolkata was the cradle of colonial conquest. It was from here that Warren Hastings, the first governor-general of Bengal in 1774, had administered an empire that stretched its tentacles across the subcontinent. The city that birthed the British Raj's administrative spine now witnessed its symbolic demolition.

The BJP's choreography was masterful, meticulous and farsighted. West Bengal was deliberately positioned as the last state to conclude its polls. A generous five-day interval separated the final voting phase from the count on 4 May, a date pregnant with purpose, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Jan Sangh's icon Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder whose vision of integral Bharat had been buried under layers of leftist historiography. The swearing-in was fixed for May 9, evoking Tagore's timeless legacy while stamping it with saffron sanctity. Even the decision to relocate the seat of governance from Banerjee's pet project, Nabanna, back to the storied Writers' Building signalled restoration. Designed in 1777 by Thomas Lyon as the East India Company's clerical citadel, the building had housed the 'writers' who scripted colonial edicts.

Beneath this spectacle lay deeper roots that the BJP had patiently watched for 15 years. West Bengal's soil had always been fertile for *sanatani* nationalism. It was the land of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the rationalist reformer who lit the first lamps of renaissance. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee penned Vande Mataram, the national song that stirred generations. Subhas Bose forged an aggressive freedom movement that challenged the Raj. Sri Aurobindo elevated Hindu spirituality into a revolutionary creed. Swami Vivekananda became Hinduism's global ambassador, thundering at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago that India's soul was eternal. These giants had sown seeds of cultural nationalism so profound that neither Congress's secular dilution nor the Marxists' materialist hammer could uproot them.



PTI

Yet for seven decades, these icons were consigned to archival dust. The Congress, the Left Front and later the Trinamool Congress converted Bengal into a soulless, splintered state. Vote-bank politics fragmented society along religious and regional fault lines. Infiltration from Bangladesh turned border districts into tinderboxes. Violence, often state-tolerated, chased away investors. Once an industrial powerhouse, Bengal became a byword for capital flight, deindustrialisation and extortion. Per-capita income, which stood at 127.5 percent of the national average in 1960-61, plummeted to a humiliating 83.7 percent. Its share of national GDP shrank from 10.5 percent to 5.8 percent.

The BJP spotted the opening. For 15 years, they worked silently identifying victims of humiliation, reminding Hindus of their endangered symbols of worship, warning of a future where demographic shifts could render them strangers in their own land. The anger that simmered through the Sandeshkhali horrors, post-poll violence and daily indignities finally boiled over.

Hindus, across castes and classes, voted in unprecedented solidarity not merely rejecting the old regime but demanding restoration.

Yet victory brings its sternest litmus test. Adhikari's government must now deliver more than rhetoric. The millions who queued under the summer sun expect bread with brotherhood, tangible development that heals rather than divides. They voted for Hindu solidarity; they now crave Ram Rajya in practice: governance that restores dignity to the dispossessed, revives investment without fear of goons, secures borders without appeasement, and rebuilds Bengal's intellectual and economic sinews. The shift to Writers' Building is emblematic of this deeper intent. No longer will the secretariat sit in a modern edifice severed from history. It returns to the very halls where clerks once penned imperial decrees and where revolutionaries later defied them. In moving there, the new dispensation declares that Bengal's identity is neither a colonial relic nor a leftist laboratory, but a living continuum of Bharat.

Critics will carp, of course. Some will decry "saffronisation" as if cultural assertion were a sin. Others will lament the end of "secular" fiefdoms built on selective silences. But the mandate is unambiguous. Voters rejected the broken promises of the past—land reforms that stagnated agriculture, industrial policies that invited strikes over growth, minority politics that ignored the majority's mounting anxiety and chose disruption instead.

The May 9 ceremony was not pomp for its own sake. It was a prophecy fulfilled. The seeds were planted by Bengal's own nationalists. Roy's reason, Bankim's patriotism, Bose's bravery, Aurobindo's vision, Vivekananda's vigour have finally fructified. History has been rewritten in saffron ink. The coming years will determine whether that ink becomes the permanent script of a resurgent Bengal or merely a bold first chapter. For now, one truth stands unassailable. The original soul of Bengal has returned home.

OF MARMALADES AND MARKETING MYTHS



REVERSE SWING

MADHAVAN NARAYANAN
Senior journalist
Follow him on X @madversity

ARE the British losing their marbles over marmalade? English breakfast tables are now potentially liable to European political correctness. Thereby hangs the tale of how, in an interconnected world, things may find new identities away from their birthplace while facing rude shocks at home.

There is a debate on whether Keir Starmer's Labour government, already on a shaky wicket at home, would be compelled to say 'citrus marmalade' for something they never thought would need an adjective. After all, the dictionary defines marmalade as a "type of jam made from oranges or lemons". The touch of mildly bitter rinds is what makes marmalade tangy, much like the clipped accent of the Queen's English.

Members of the UK's House of Commons recently expressed outrage after reports that the bread-spread associated with Queen Elizabeth—because of her fictional video with marmalade-loving Paddington Bear—may be subject to re-

labelling under a trade deal with the European Union. It might have something to do with the Germans, who use the word 'marmalade' for all sorts of fruit preserves. The new requirement is a pushback from the Brexit days as Starmer's Britain tries to start life afresh with the EU. Maybe the UK should insist on calling it "British marmalade" when it is made from citrus fruits.

They may pick a leaf from the Bengal vs Odisha battle over who invented the rosogolla. Bengal now has a geographical indication tag for 'Banglar rosogolla' while Odisha has received a separate GI tag for 'Odisha rasagola'. It seems spelling the same thing differently can get you some mild respite in intellectual property disputes. A GI tag acts like a trademark to protect authenticity and offers a limited guarantee for authorised producers.

Heritage gets shaky in a shrinking world. We Indians have often had to worry about misappropriation of traditional knowledge. In the 1990s, India had to fight two significant battles. Government agencies won one dispute against the US patenting the medicinal core of turmeric, which in India is part of grandma's remedies for everything from sore throats to wounds, and another that restricted US-based RiceTec from taking a patent on basmati rice.

Twice-bitten, hundreds of times shy. Thanks to increased IP awareness, India now has more than 500 GI-tagged products that include Alphonso mangoes, Nagpur oranges, Bikaneri bhujia, Kanjeevaram silk, Pashmina shawls and Darjeeling tea. But global appro-

priation is a two-way street. You sometimes have to give as good as you get. Some of the most common things assumed to be Indian at least by large parts of the world are not Indian if history were to bear witness.

Samosa's origins are traced variously back to central and western Asia or even Egypt, where it was called *sambusa* and typically filled with meat. If you think replacing meat with potatoes



A recent row between Britain and the EU over what to call marmalades has led to a cascade of linguistic and culinary ironies. Maybe they can learn from India's own efforts at protecting food heritage

makes it truly Indian, think again. Potatoes were brought to India from South America by the Portuguese in the 17th Century. Syrupy jalebis, often relished with samosas, trace their origin to Arab lands where they were called jalebia. Had the Arabs and/or Turks got GI tags for samosas and jalebis, the history of Indian cuisine would have been different, at least in name.

As for the British, it may be time for them to frown on William Shakespeare, who famously wrote, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet." Imagine Starmer invoking the best-known Eng-

lish writer to defend a concession to the EU. It is unlikely to wash. There is another layer of irony when you notice that a name for what is essentially a preserve cannot be preserved so easily.

But then, culture can be manufactured. I grew up reading P G Wodehouse's stories of elite British life in which a combination of eggs and bacon seemed quintessentially English. But things have rolled on from there.

An Austrian-born American nephew of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, Edward Bernays, is considered the father of public relations. He is credited with making the heavy-duty breakfast combo popular in America, where orange juice, rolls and coffee used to be the morning staple. Bernays famously co-opted 4,500 doctors in a campaign to boost the idea that a heavy breakfast was a healthy one. The story made it to newspapers across America. The rest is culinary history.

It is quite a reverse swing for me to infer that Wodehouse's "British breakfast" may have its origins in American PR strategy. The main years he wrote his bacon-laden Jeeves novels, the 1920s and the 1930s, coincide with the high points of Bernays' comparably long career. The two were born just 10 years apart.

Marmalade, meanwhile, is now a many-splendored thing. It is made in India with GI-tagged Nagpur oranges, Himalayan Galgal lemons and locally-grown 'Malta oranges'. In a world of fusion cuisine and social media collaborations, culture has become as unpredictable as the English weather.

(Views are personal)

QUOTE CORNER



The Epstein class is above party. They don't associate as Republicans or Democrats. The people who are funding the [White House] ballroom, funding the arch, funding the rebranding of the Kennedy Center, these are the people who are also funding my opponent.

Thomas Massie, US Congress member who co-sponsored the Bill to release Epstein files, on funding against him by billionaires mentioned in the files

Operation Trust Me Bro failed. Now back to routine with Operation Fauxtios.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of Iran's parliament, on the end of Donald Trump's Operation Project Freedom and an Axios exclusive claiming a new peace deal had been signed to open the Strait of Hormuz

IPL is now purely business. They prepare flat pitches because low scores are boring for sponsors. Even I would struggle to bowl against aggressive kids like [Vaibhav] Suryavanshi.

Muttiah Muralitharan, Sunrisers Hyderabad coach who claimed 63 IPL wickets before retiring as a T20 player in 2014

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Bengal currents

Ref: *The Renaissance required in the East again* (May 9). In early medieval Bengal, while Shashanka cut down the Bodhi tree, Dharmapala restored Nalanda; while the Senas revived orthodox Hinduism, the Khaljis ushered in the first Muslim sultanate. In modern Bengal, when the Derozians were flying high, the Brahmo Samajis remained grounded; if Hindu College pioneered western education, Shantiniketan pioneered the Indian. After independence, if the political compass moved from the centre to the Left, it has now taken a turn to the right. Bengal flows like a river, with cycles of change and continuity, and any attempt to fixate on a particular current holds no water.

K S Mohana Murugan, email

Revival time

Ref: *The Renaissance required in the East again* (May 9). With the change of government in West

Bengal, it is a timely write-up on the decadence of values in the state. The fall is all the more evident in unbridled violence and unchecked corruption of the ruling parties. The masses are neglected and their economic needs uncared for. The literature and music is replaced with meaningless cacophony. An overhaul is the need of the hour.

Ramalingeswara Rao, email

Remove bottlenecks

Ref: *Urgency needed in oil exploration* (May 9). The main bottlenecks to such projects include bureaucratic delays, complex land acquisition, high taxes and lack of foreign interest. Solutions involve AI-driven exploration, fair compensation and collaborative state-central policies. With the West Asia conflict causing a dent to crude supply and warning of possible future disruptions, there needs to be urgency in jacking up domestic oil output.

R Sampath, Chennai

Moniker's weight

Ref: *Vijay still two short* (May 9). The VCK chief

bears two illustrious and ancient Tamil names—Tholkappian, the source of Tamil grammar, and Thirumavalavan, another name for the incomparable Chola king Karikala. But he seems not to be behaving like either. He can either justify his great names with his behaviour, or be known as another "me too" person. It is sad that he does not understand the greatness of the names he carries.

Krishnaswamy N Ponnani, Palakkad

Opening doors

Ref: *TNEA cut-off likely to drop as centum scorers in Class 12 exams decline* (May 9). The drop in centum scorers need not be read as a setback. Instead, it may reflect a more honest assessment of student performance. Maithili's story says it all. A corporation school student from a humble family background, topping Chennai with 593 marks, proves that circumstance never determines potential. Lower cut-offs will open doors for many such deserving students who were earlier excluded by a single mark.

Prajesh Paramasivan, Neelambur

School counsellors

Ref: *Students account for 8.5% of suicides* (May 9). This is a shocking revelation from the latest national crime data. One of the important reasons is that most schools do not have full-time psychological counsellors. I have seen in my teaching career spanning over four decades that good counsellors serve as a bridge between students, teachers and parents, help students perform to their potential, and ensure that they lead a stress-free life. Money spent on psychological counsellors by schools is an investment on human capital.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Vatican mission

Ref: *Rubio urges Europeans to share Iran burden* (May 9). Trump in damage control mode sent Secretary of State Marco Rubio on this mission to the Vatican. The damage caused by Trump's insults to the Pope is rebounding on him and the war is going completely out of control. He should have been a little more careful about what he said and did.

Philip Alexander, Bengaluru

As western command head, he watches threats from Pak, key sea routes ● North China, Europe covered in range

Vice Admiral Swaminathan new Navy chief

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

VICE Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, a communication and electronic warfare specialist with extensive operational experience across frontline naval formations and carrier battle groups (CBGSs), has been appointed the next Chief of the Naval Staff, the government announced on Saturday.

He will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retires on May 31. Vice Adm Swaminathan heads the Western Naval Command, the Navy's premier operational command responsible for India's western maritime front facing Pakistan, including the Arabian Sea and critical sea lanes that carry the bulk of the country's trade and energy supplies.

His appointment comes at a time when the Indian Navy is steadily expanding its operational reach across the Indian Ocean Region amid increasing Chinese naval deployments, heightened maritime competition and growing emphasis on integrated surveillance, carrier-led operations and network-centric warfare. Commissioned into the Navy in 1987, Vice Adm Swaminathan has served across a spectrum of operational, personnel and training assignments during a career spanning nearly four decades.

He has commanded frontline naval platforms, including aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, guided missile destroyer INS Mysore, missile corvette



Changing of the guard

Swaminathan will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retires on May 31. Vice Adm Swaminathan heads the Western Naval Command, the Navy's premier operational command responsible for India's western maritime front facing Pakistan, including sea lanes that carry the bulk of the country's trade and energy supplies. His appointment comes at a time when the Navy is expanding its operational reach across the Indian Ocean Region.

INS Kulish, and missile vessels INS Vidyut and INS Vinash.

Among his key operational appointments was his tenure as Flag Officer Commanding the Western Fleet, often referred to as the Navy's "Sword Arm", which serves as the force's principal combat fleet in the Arabian Sea and spearheads frontline maritime operations on the western seaboard.

On promotion to Rear Admiral, he served as Chief Staff Officer (Training) at Southern Naval Command Headquarters in Kochi. He later headed the Navy's Work Up Organisation as Flag Officer Sea Training, responsible for combat readiness of frontline warships and crews, before taking over command of Western Fleet.

Subsequently, he served as Flag Officer, Offshore Defence Advisory Group, and Adviser, Offshore Security and Defence, to Government of India. After promotion to Vice Admiral, he

held senior appointments including Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command, Controller of Personnel Services and Chief of Personnel at Naval Headquarters. Prior to assuming command of the Western Naval Command in July 2025, he served as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the Admiral attended the Joint Services Command and Staff College at Shrivenham in the UK, College of Naval Warfare at Karanjia and the US Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island.

His academic qualifications include an MA in Defence Studies from King's College London, an M.Phil in Strategic Studies from Mumbai University and a PhD in International Studies from Mumbai University. He is also a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Lt Gen Raja Subramani appointed next CDS

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

LIEUTENANT General N S Raja Subramani (Retd), an Army veteran with four decades of operational experience across the China and Pakistan fronts, has been appointed as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the government announced on Saturday.

He will be India's third CDS, succeeding General Anil Chauhan, whose tenure ends on May 30. Lt Gen Subramani is also the second former three-star officer to be elevated directly to the four-star CDS appointment, after General Chauhan in September 2022.

The appointment comes at a time when India's security planning is increasingly shaped by the prospect of a two-front challenge amid the growing strategic and military coordination between Beijing and Islamabad. Lt Gen Subramani is expected to carry forward



Leadership experience on both fronts

During his time at the Central Command between 2023 and 2024 Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (ret'd) oversaw formations responsible for portions of the LAC with China. Earlier, he had commanded 2 Corps, one of the Army's principal strike formations along the western front with Pakistan

the long-pending theatre command reforms aimed at restructuring the armed forces into integrated commands that bring the Army, Navy and Air Force assets under unified operational structures for specific geographical theatres.

The process has gathered momentum in recent months, with the office of the CDS understood to have submitted three separate proposals on the theatre commands to the defence ministry for vetting before they are taken up by the higher political leadership and the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for final approval.

As CDS, Lt Gen Subramani will also serve as the ex officio Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), created in 2020 to promote jointness and integration among the three Services. He has been serving as Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) since September 2025.

SELECT LEAGUE

India conducts 2nd test of Agni-5 'Divyastra' missile with strike range of 5K km

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIA has successfully flight-tested an advanced variant of the Agni-5 ballistic missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology off the coast of Odisha, the defence ministry said on Saturday.

Agni-5 has an officially declared strike range of over 5,000 km, putting targets deep into the Eurasian landmass, including northern China within reach. This is the second known test of the Agni-5 Mk2, also referred to as 'Divyastra,' an advanced MIRV-capable iteration of the Agni-5, which was first tested in March 2024. The missile is yet to undergo further validation trials before induction into the Strategic Forces Command.

MIRV technology allows a single ballistic missile to carry multiple nuclear warheads, each capable of striking a different target independently. Beyond expanding the range of targets that can be engaged in a single launch, MIRV capability also complicates adversary missile-defence systems, significantly enhancing the credibility of nuclear deterrence.

Only a handful of countries, including the US, Russia, China, France and the UK, possess operational MIRV capability.

"The missile was flight-tested Friday with multiple payloads targeted at different locations spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region. Telemetry & tracking was carried out by multiple ground & ship-based stations," the statement said.

It added that the systems tracked the entire missile trajectory from lift-off till the impact of all payloads and that all mission objectives were met during the trial. "With this successful trial, India once again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a single missile system," the statement said.

Sources said a key technical advance in Agni-5 Mk2 is the replacement of the earlier maraging steel first-stage casing with a lighter carbon composite filament-wound structure, currently India's largest composite missile casing.



Over 4.9 lakh people in India have registered for post-death organ and tissue donation (till May 2)

REGISTERED DONORS

MEN

WOMEN

GIVING LIFE A BOOST

Since Sept 17, 2023 (Aadhaar-based system launch), 4,92,355 pledges have been recorded

In 7 states including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, Mizoram, and Sikkim, women outnumber men in pledges

The 30-45 age group tops registrations with 204,073 pledges

2,62,403

2,26,309

Over 4.9L pledge organs; women take lead in Maha, K'taka, Kerala & T'gana

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

OVER 4.9 lakh Indians have registered to donate organs and tissues after death, with more men pledging their organs as compared to women, the latest government data has shown.

While 2,62,403 men have pledged to donate their organs, as many as 226,309 women have registered themselves as donors till May 2. What is interesting is that in some states, such as Maharashtra, Karnata

taka, Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, Mizoram, and Sikkim, women have taken the lead in pledging their organs since the Aadhaar-based verification system was launched on the birthday of PM Narendra Modi on September 17, 2023.

Since the launch, 4,92,355 people in India, the highest in Maharashtra, have pledged their organs after death, according to the data made available by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOT-

TO), an organisation for implementing the National Organ Transplant Program (NOTP), which aims to improve access to organ transplantation.

A deceased donor can save up to eight lives and improve the quality of life of many others. While most people (3,39,583) in India pledged heart donation, 2,94,058 registered for intestine donation. It is followed by the kidney (1,50,191), liver (3,41,038), lungs (3,11,898) and pancreas (2,96,863).



India to host Africa summit amid global race for influence

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

A decade on, New Delhi is preparing to host the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) on May 31, in what is being seen as a renewed push to reposition India's engagement with Africa amid intensifying geopolitical competition on the continent. The last summit was held in 2015, with the process disrupted by the pandemic and shifting global priorities.

The summit, to be preceded by senior officials' meetings on May 28 and a foreign ministers' meeting on May 29, is expected to draw wide participation from across Africa. India has invited all African countries, and officials say discussions are under way on a "forward-looking, substantive" outcome document focused on deliverables across trade, investment, education, health, food security and developmental assistance.

"We are confident of good participation from the African heads of state and government," a source said, adding that the summit would announce "outcomes that respond to Africa's interests based on the continent's development needs." The outreach comes at a time when both China and the United States are stepping up their engagement with Africa,



EAM S Jaishankar and African Ambassadors during the launch of the logo, theme and website for India Africa Forum Summit-IV in New Delhi on April 23 | EXPRESS

particularly in infrastructure, energy transition, critical minerals and strategic connectivity. Indian officials point out that New Delhi is attempting to differentiate its approach through what they call a "consultative, demand-driven partnership."

Over the past decade, India has expanded its diplomatic and political footprint across the continent. There have been nearly 50 high-level visits from India to African countries and close to 100 visits from African leaders to India during the same period. New Delhi has also opened 17 new diplomatic missions in Africa, taking its presence to 46 countries.

Africa has emerged as a strategically important partner for India not only politically but economically. Bilateral trade

stands at around \$85 billion, while the continent accounts for nearly 10% of India's energy imports. Indian officials say trade, investment and capacity-building partnerships will remain central to discussions at the summit.

"We also want more private sector companies to invest in Africa and it will be win-win," said a government official. New Delhi is also expected to foreground sectors where it believes it holds comparative advantages over larger powers, digital public infrastructure, affordable healthcare, capacity building and education. India has signed digital cooperation framework agreements with seven African countries, while 39 African nations have already joined the International Solar Alliance.

50 tourist spots to be developed as 'global hubs'

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Tourism Ministry is all set to roll out its ambitious challenge-based scheme to boost the country's tourism sector, under which up to 50 destinations across India will be transformed into "global-standard" tourist hubs with financial assistance of up to ₹500 crore per project.

Aimed at improving hygiene, safety, visitor experience and tourism infrastructure, the proposed programme will also introduce real-time tourist feedback dashboards and mandatory third-party audits to monitor performance and ensure better management and accountability of states.

According to the framework and guidelines prepared by the ministry, each selected destination could receive financial support of up to ₹500 crore, of which ₹200 crore will be earmarked specifically for destination management systems

- Each project to receive up to ₹500 crore in financial assistance
- ₹200 crore earmarked for destination management systems; ₹300 cr for infra
- Scheme aligned with PM's vision of 'One State: One Global Destination'

- Funds to be released on performance benchmarks, not in upfront mode
- A funding mechanism has been designed for eligibility-based disbursement
- Third-party assessments will determine progression to higher funding levels

- Real-time public dashboards will collect tourist feedback and improve checks & oversight

while the remaining ₹300 crore will be spent on infrastructure development. The scheme is in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "One State: One Global Destination".

Officials said that the financial assistance, however, would not be disbursed upfront. Instead, funds will be released in phases linked to performance benchmarks cleared by the states. The ministry has drafted a four-level funding mecha-

AYUSH SHETTY

FOR INDIAN BADMINTON, HE STANDS TALL

ANMOL GURUNG

HERE were quite a few anecdotes about Ayush Shetty, as narrated by his mother. He was good at chess and academics. It was difficult to choose, but the parents had to back his love for the sport he is starting to dominate. The mother had to shift with Ayush and his sister to Bengaluru to pursue his dream. His love for the game transcended into an obsession. And has remained to this day.

There is an uncanny resemblance with one GOATS of the game—Victor Axelsen from Denmark—and it goes beyond the dominating frame of six feet and four inches.

The attack and court coverage are just a few. The great Dane himself had complimented the World No 18 and coming player for his 'similar' style play during a camp in Dubai last year. "I love to attack," surmises Ayush's inner engineering while playing the sport. This is just the beginning of his fledgling career, but Ayush has made a few heads turn and take notice—World No 7 Li Shi Feng, World No 4 Jonatan Christie, Kunlavut Vitidsarn (World No 1 at the time, No 2 now) were some of his scalps.

Not long ago, Indian badminton was staring at an abyss. A void to be left behind by quite a few trailblazers. Multiple World and Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, London Games medallist Saina Nehwal, former World No 1 Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy had been keeping India's tri-colour flying.

But the scythe of age is mercilessly catching up with them. Saina is now retired, while the rest are struggling with their ageing body. Lakshya Sen, considered to be the present, was enduring an ordinary year by his lofty standards with injuries not helping his case until not so long back. Even the ever-reliable men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were feeling the toll at the elite level.

Amidst the gloomy backdrop, Ayush stands tall, literally just like his six feet and four inches frame. The smashes and drop shots suddenly resemble volleys of bullets, forceful and precise. Ayush's arrival in the last month or so has been a welcome boost for Indian badminton. The lanky youngster was a revelation during the Asia Championships at Ningbo, China, where he upset some of the cream of the sport to become only the second from the country to reach the men's singles final in the continental meet after Dinesh Khanna. He could not quite match Khanna's gold, which was won in 1965, but his silver was

cathartic for India.

Ayush had always dreamt of playing alongside the greats of the game. "I always wanted to be one of the best players in the world... Back then, I didn't believe it as much as I do now," he said after winning the Asian championships medal.

His mother Shalmili succinctly puts it. "For him, it was always like 'I want to be on top.' That was there from Day 1. He had that determination. That is the reason we shifted to Bengaluru. Even after 10th, we were a little confused as to whether to continue with badminton or not as he was quite good in studies as well. He used to be the class topper. He used to tell us, 'I'll prove and show you I'll be doing something great in badminton'. Given what he said, we thought 'let's give him a chance'," she had told this newspaper after Ayush's silver.

That was just the beginning for Ayush, who turned 21 just a few days ago.

With India looking to reclaim the Thomas Cup crown, Ayush, from the team's perspective, was one of the players in focus once again at Horsens, Denmark. The youngster, representing the country for the first time in the premier event, once again roared at the big stage and helped the team capture the bronze medal. It is a reflection of his tenacious talent and his ability to play at the highest level. But it's just the beginning. "I need to plan and prepare better next time, facing someone like Christo (Popov). He's tactically really good and it's a good learning for me," Ayush had said after his loss in the semifinal against the Frenchman. It has been a good learning experience. Ayush, who's expected to take part in Thailand Open Super 500 event next, could climb even higher in the days to unfold.

Ayush loves to attack. And that's what he is going to do in his pursuit of excellence. "If you look skill-wise, I was playing more attacking this week. I didn't want to go defensive," he had said after the Asia Championships. With years to go and hundreds of titles to win, hopefully with attack, Ayush flourishes.



MANDAR PARDIKAR



Travel makeover

nism under which destinations will have to meet predefined standards and clear periodic assessments before becoming eligible for the next tranche of assistance, officials added.



BJP'S GRAND PARADE TO POWER IN BENGAL

From first Cong govt of Atulya Ghosh to Jyoti Basu's Left dispensation to Mamata's admin, historic ground hosts first major BJP event



Suwendu Adhikari



Dilip Ghosh



Agnimitra Paul



Nisith Pramanik



Ashok Kirtania



Kshudiram Tudu

From Nandigram's bruising political battleground to the commanding heights of the heritage Writers' Building, Suwendu Adhikari completed one of the most dramatic ascents in contemporary Indian politics on Saturday. From fierce legislative battles to relentless agitations within the precincts of the Assembly, Adhikari, as the Leader of the Opposition, positioned himself at the forefront of the BJP's campaign against the Mamata Banerjee government's policies, culminating in a showdown where he defeated the Trinamool Congress supremo in her "impregnable" bastion of Bhabanipur.

The former president of the BJP's West Bengal unit scripted a remarkable comeback in the 2026 polls. One of the party's most recognisable faces in Bengal, Ghosh played a pivotal role in transforming the BJP from a fringe player into the principal challenger to the Trinamool Congress. A former RSS pracharak with a reputation for being blunt, often making controversial remarks, and grassroots politics, Ghosh oversaw the BJP's organisational expansion in the state between 2015 and 2021. Ghosh won the Kharagpur Sadar seat this time, defeating TMC's Pradip Sarkar.

Fashion designer-turned-frontline state leader Paul emerged as one of the most prominent faces of the BJP's Bengal unit, characterised by her vocal role in opposition politics and active presence in the assembly. An MLA from the state's coal belt of Asansol Dakshin seat, Paul won the assembly segment first in 2021 by defeating TMC's Saayoni Ghosh, and retained it this time. She joined the BJP in 2019 and quickly rose within the party ranks, holding posts of president of the state BJP Mahila Morcha and general secretary of the Bengal unit. She is currently the vice president of the party.

A former TMC youth wing leader who joined the BJP following his expulsion from the party after the 2018 panchayat polls, Pramanik defeated his rival Paresah Adhikari in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Two years later, at the age of 35, he earned the distinction of becoming the youngest member of PM Narendra Modi's council of ministers following a reshuffle in the cabinet. He was MoS Home. Pramanik started as a booth president and worked his way up to the BJP's state leadership in a meteoric rise of sorts. In 2026, he won the Mathabhanga seat in Cooch Behar, defeating TMC's Sablu Barman.

A BJP leader from the Matua community belt of North 24-Parganas district bordering Bangladesh, Kirtania retained his Bongaon Uttar seat, which he first won in 2021, defeating TMC's Biswajit Das by a margin of 40,670 votes. Kirtania widened the winning margin this year by 30,000 votes as he had won in 2021 by 10,488 votes. In the wake of the deletion of names in the post-SIR electoral rolls, where perceptions of disenfranchisement among the migrant Namashudra refugee community were palpable, Kirtania's achievement has put anti-BJP sentiment speculations to rest.

A representative of the Santhal community, Tudu played a major role in the BJP sweep of the forest-covered Jungalmahal area of central Bengal. He contested against Mamata Banerjee's nominee Tanushree Hansda in the Ranibandh assembly seat in Bankura district and won by a massive margin of more than 52,000 votes. Belonging to a community striving in Bengal for proliferation of the Santhali language among its community members, Tudu chose to take oath in his native language. His induction into the cabinet is viewed as the party's attempt to consolidate its tribal outreach.

Once ideological citadel of Left, Brigade turns saffron



People gather at Brigade Parade Ground during swearing-in ceremony of Suwendu Adhikari as Bengal's first BJP CM | PTI

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

A grand show unfolded at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds in Kolkata, where Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the first BJP Chief Minister on Saturday in West Bengal.

For the BJP, the optics of the venue carried deep political meaning. Once considered the ideological citadel of the Left and later appropriated by the TMC as a symbol of mass mobilisation, Brigade Parade Grounds became the site of the saffron party's biggest breakthrough in Bengal. Thousands of BJP workers started arriving at the venue from early morning, carrying lotus flags, while giant LED screens played campaign speeches of PM Narendra Modi and Adhikari. Chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" echoed across Grounds, as the PM arrived for the ceremony.

"Since May 4, when BJP secured an electrifying victory bagging 207 seats that paved the way for formation of the party's

Somehow, I managed to arrange a pass on Friday night and reached Brigade early in morning to witness the show from beginning. It's a brilliant experience

A corporate employee

first-ever government in Bengal, I decided to witness the historic moment at the Brigade Grounds," said Apratim Ghosh, a corporate employee who attended the ceremony. "But it was difficult to collect an entry pass as there were huge demands. Somehow, I managed to arrange a pass on Friday night and reached Brigade early in morning to witness the show from beginning. It's a brilliant experience," he added.

Thousands of BJP supporters were frantically making calls, sending WhatsApp messages to their local leaders desperately seeking passes to get an entry into the Maidan. The reason: BJP workers and supporters

were eager to witness the grand show at the huge Brigade venue in the presence of PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, other top leaders and CMs of the states ruled by the NDA. Suwendu was wearing traditional Bengali 'dhoti' and half-sleeve saffron-colour kurta.

Rohan Halder, a 33-year-old resident of Amtala in South 24-Parganas district, reached Brigade Grounds by his motorbike after travelling more than 30 km. "I came here to see a historic event. The entire venue was awash with a festive mood," Halder said.

Showcasing Bengal's culture and dietary habits, stalls of 'jhalhuri' and sweets like Sandesh (with lotus symbol) were built at different corners. Huge tents and stages, besides the main dais where Governor R N Ravi administered the oath, displayed photos of Rabindranath Tagore and Kalighat Temple, among others.

A makeshift memorial carrying the names of slain party workers was erected near the venue, where many supporters paused silently.

Special roll observer named advisor to Suwendu, CEO to be chief secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

HOURS after Suwendu Adhikari took oath as first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal on Saturday, Subrata Gupta, the Special Roll Observer (SRO) appointed by the Election Commission to oversee the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state, was made the advisor to the CM.

According to state secretariat sources, state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal, who was in charge of SIR and later oversaw the assembly polls, will be made the Chief Secretary (CS) of the state.

Bengal, which used to be rocked by election violence, for the first time witnessed fair polls without reports of blood-bath, rigging and fake voting under the supervision of the two bureaucrats of 1990 batch and with heavy deployment of Central forces. "With appoint-



ment of Gupta and Agarwal to key posts, the new government wants to provide transparent administration in the state," said a secretariat source. Gupta, a retired IAS and former secretary in the Union Ministry Food Processing, was made SRO by the EC considering his track records. He was an alumni of IIT Kharagpur and a management graduate from Birmingham in UK. "He was shunted to less important departments despite being a senior officer holding the rank of additional Chief Secretary by the previous Mamata Baner-



jee government," a retired official said.

Sources in the bureaucracy said the move to accommodate the two senior officers in the most important posts in administration comes after the conduct of 'fair and peaceful' Assembly elections.

Though officers from his batch, including Vivek Kumar, Hridesh Mohan and Vivek Bharadwaj, remain in service, administrative circles suggest Agarwal has emerged the front-runner for the post owing to his performance in handling key responsibilities.

ON THE DAIS, 97-YR-OLD AIDE OF SHYAMA PRASAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday touched the feet of 98-year-old BJP veteran Makhanlal Sarkar and sought his blessings at the swearing-in ceremony of the party's first government in West Bengal. Sarkar was arrested in Kashmir in 1952 while accompanying Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee during the movement to hoist the Indian tricolour there, the BJP said. "Sarkar is one of the early grassroots figures associated with the nationalist movement in post-Independence India," the party said in a statement. Felicitating Sarkar on the stage at the Brigade Parade Grounds before the oath-taking ceremony, the PM touched his feet to take his blessings and hugged the veteran leader before exchanging pleasantries. After the formation of the BJP in 1980, Sarkar became the organisational coordinator for the then West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts in Left Front-ruled West Bengal. "From 1981 onward, he served continuously for seven years as district president, an exceptional achievement at a time when BJP leaders generally could not remain in the same organisational position for more than two years," the statement said.



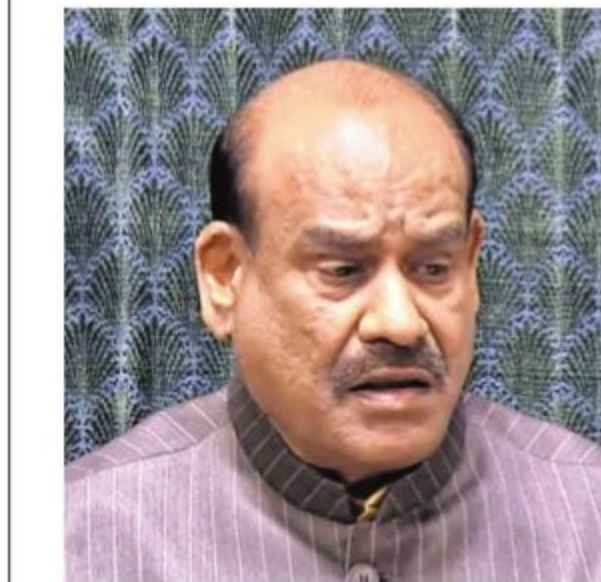
PM Modi greets senior BJP worker Makhanlal Sarkar at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday | PTI



JAIPUR DIARY
RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

Birla's ex-minister remark sparks buzz

A recent statement by Om Birla has sparked huge political chatter in the Rajasthan BJP. Recalling his days as an MP, Birla remarked, "When I was an MP, my friend was the sports minister. I had to run around for years to get sports facilities in my constituency." Though he did not name anyone, political observers quickly connected the dots to Rajyavardhan Rathore, who held the portfolio at the time. Insiders say Rathore was one of the most powerful faces in Delhi then, handling key ministries and maintaining a distance from party colleagues. Later, Rathore was sent into Rajasthan politics with an MLA ticket.



Gehlot's silence over scam fuels rumours

More than the arrest of former minister Mahesh Joshi by the ACB in the Jal Jeevan Mission scam, its former CM Ashok Gehlot's delayed reaction has become a talking point in Rajasthan's political corridors. After being arrested by the ED in April 2025 and later getting bail from the Supreme Court after seven months, he has now been re-arrested by the ACB based on statements made by retired ACS Subodh Agarwal, who is already arrested. What raised eyebrows was Gehlot's tweet coming nearly 16 hours after Joshi's arrest. Political insiders are wondering whether Gehlot waited for legal or political feedback before reacting.

All is not well in Rajasthan BJP

Political whispers in the Rajasthan BJP suggest that all is not well between the government and the party organisation. Insiders claim that organisation leaders are not being given enough importance in administrative matters, especially transfers, and have left state BJP chief Madan Rathore unhappy. The recent Bengal victory celebrations further fuelled the buzz, as separate events were held at the BJP office and the CM House. Interestingly, while former state presidents like Satish Poonia and Ashok Parmari attended the CM House gathering, Rathore remained absent, prompting the CM to later make an unscheduled visit to the party office.

Naga woman, abducted by militants from India-Myanmar border, released

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

A Tangkhul Naga woman, abducted by insurgent group Kuki National Army-Burma (KNA-B) and Village Volunteers Eastern Zone from the Namlee village near the India-Myanmar border in Manipur's Kamjong district in the early morning of Thursday, was released on Saturday.

Olina Ningshen (45) was released after concerted efforts were made by the Assam Rifles, the district administration and the police.

The release took place at a place south of Z Choro Village close to the incident area under the watch of Assam Rifles, intelligence and other agencies.

The husband of the woman, village headman and leaders of civil society organisations were taken to a site close to the



handover location after forces had secured her release.

Following her release, the woman underwent a medical check-up and was provided with psychological assistance, defence sources said.

"...In the early hours of May 7, there was unrest reported near Z Choro and opposite Namlee along the India-Myanmar border. The volatile situation was brought under control by the troopers of the Assam Rifles with an immediate response despite challenging con-

ditions," a defence ministry statement said.

It further stated that acting proactively during the incident, the Assam Rifles deployed multiple rescue teams. Ten houses affected by the violence were secured and civilians evacuated to the nearest safe location.

"Fifteen distressed villagers, including women and children, were rescued and provided with humanitarian assistance at the Aloyo Assam Rifles camp. A woman was provided with immediate first aid and medical evacuation support," the statement said.

To prevent further escalation and restore stability, the Assam Rifles had also conducted sanitisation operations. Amid prevailing tensions, the Assam Rifles continued to patrol across other sensitive areas of Kamjong to ensure peace.

Tech and trust to act as vigilant shield in Durg

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IN an era where security challenges shift rapidly from physical streets to digital corridors, the Durg police in Chhattisgarh has unveiled a multi-dimensional strategy to safeguard its citizens. Through the launch of the "Janmitra" initiative, the police department is bridging the gap between law enforcement and the public, transforming every resident into a partner in crime prevention.

"As financial transactions increasingly move online, the threat of cyber fraud looms large. The Durg Police's "Cyber Prahari" programme serves as a dedicated sentinel against modern threats like digital arrest scams, share trading fraud, and photo morphing. Citizens are urged to remain vigilant by keeping banking alerts active and never sharing OTPs or PINs. In the event of a breach,



the 1930 helpline stands ready as a rapid-response mechanism to freeze fraudulent transactions," said Vijay Agrawal, Durg senior SP.

The cityscape is being reimaged through the "Trinayan" project—an ambitious initiative to create an integrated database of CCTV cameras. By encouraging residents and business owners to install cam-

Direct mobile access

The Durg police directory now provides direct mobile access of officials from the district police chief to local station house officers, ensuring total transparency. Whether it is securing a vacant home by informing neighbours or reporting suspicious activity via the 112 emergency line, the message from Durg Police is clear: awareness is your strongest shield, and the police are your reliable friends.

eras facing public areas, the police have established a "Third Eye" that monitors the district 24/7. This network, bolstered by the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), does more than just manage traffic; it identifies suspicious vehicles, monitors accidents, and automatically generates e-challans for rule-breakers, Durg SSP told this newspaper.

Safety in Durg extends beyond catching criminals; it involves nurturing the community. The Family Counselling Centre provides a sanctuary for resolving domestic disputes and supporting vulnerable groups, including children and senior citizens. Specialised helplines such as 1091 for women and 1098 for children ensure that help is always a phone call away. Furthermore, the "Sashakt" app empowers citizens to help track stolen vehicles, turning every smartphone into a tool for justice. On the roads, the "Traffic Mitaa" initiative promotes responsible behaviour. The police emphasise that simple acts are life-saving necessities.

Simultaneously, a strict crackdown on public knife-wielding and substance abuse (supported by the 1933 anti-drug helpline) aims to eliminate the root causes of street violence.

Gulf truce wobbles as Iran keeps US guessing on plan

US escalation in Gulf, alleged ceasefire violations deepen Iran's distrust

Spain braces for hantavirus-hit cruise

GRANADILLA DE ABONA

A cruise ship hit with a deadly hantavirus outbreak is headed for Spain's Canary Islands, where most of the nearly 150 people on board will be evacuated and flown home after weeks at sea.

The Dutch-flagged MV Hondius is expected to reach waters off Tenerife at dawn on Sunday, with WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus due to help coordinate the ship's evacuation there. Three passengers from the ship — a Dutch husband and wife and a German woman — have died, while others have fallen sick with the rare disease, which usually spreads among rodents.

The only hantavirus type that can transmit from person to person — the Andes virus — has been confirmed among those who have tested positive, fuelling international concern. At the port of Granadilla de Abona, AFP journalists saw white tents had been sent up along the quay. Despite the situation, daily life appeared largely normal: some people were swimming, others shopping at the market or sitting at cafe terraces.

“There are worries there could be a danger, but honestly I don’t see people being very concerned,” said David Parada, a lottery vendor. Authorities refused to let the vessel dock and will instead screen and evacuate passengers offshore between Sunday and Monday, weather permitting. The World Health Organisation confirmed six cases out of eight suspected onboard the MV Hondius, arriving from Cape Verde where three infected



Spanish Civil Guard members await the arrival of cruise ship MV Hondius at Tenerife's Granadilla de Abona port in the Canary Island | AFP

people were earlier evacuated. The ship is expected to reach the Canary Islands early Sunday, with part of the crew remaining onboard before it continues to the Netherlands.

Before its arrival, the WHO chief was set to meet Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez in Madrid and later travel to the archipelago with ministers.

Tedros, who arrived in Spain on Saturday, assured the people of Tenerife that the risk to them from the incoming ship was “low” and thanked them for their “solidarity”.

"I need you to hear me clearly: this is not another Covid," he wrote in an open letter to the people of the Spanish island.

Speaking to reporters in Madrid, Spain's health and interior ministers insisted there would be "no contact" with the local population. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Vedic chants echo at WH on National Day of Prayer

WASHINGTON: A volunteer from the BAPS temple in New Jersey recited verses from the Yajur Veda during the National Day of Prayer event at the White House on Thursday. The Shanti Paath invoked peace across nature and humanity, with attendees asked to close their eyes and fold their hands in prayer. BAPS later said it was honoured to offer Hindu prayers for peace and unity at the event. US President Donald Trump also marked the occasion, celebrating America's tradition of faith and prayer.

SCALED-BACK VICTORY DAY PARADE SPOTLIGHTS PUTIN'S NATO RHETORIC

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that his soldiers in Ukraine were fighting an “aggressive force” backed by all of NATO and described his war goals as “just”, as he addressed a scaled back Victory Day parade on Red Square.

Putin has made the memory of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War II a central narrative of his 25-year rule. Russian authorities typically mark the parade with pomp and grandeur. But a spate of Ukrainian long-range attacks in recent weeks prompted the Kremlin to ramp up secu-

city measures and downsize this year's celebrations. The parade was vastly smaller compared to previous years, with no military hardware on display for the first time in nearly two decades and only a handful of foreign dignitaries in attendance — most of them leaders of Russia's close allies. *AFP*

CLASSIFIEDS

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ADMISSION

ADMISSION OPEN

Last Date: 26/05/2026

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IN OCTOBER 2026

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Zoology, Botany, Aviation

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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 004.

Ref. No.RVS/E0/172/2026-27
Dated: 08-05-2026

TO-LET (E-AUCTION ONLY)

Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha, Bengaluru, has Invited E-Auction Public Notice for Renting the Entire DJCC Building as one unit Located in Hudson Circle, Bengaluru-02 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". The Auction No: RVS/2026-27/AUCTION2 Dated: 08-05-2026 and Last Date is 18-05-2026. For more details visit KPP Portal Website: <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- President RVS	Sd/- Vice President RVS	Sd/- General Secretary RVS
Sd/- Joint Secretary RVS	Sd/- Treasurer RVS	Sd/- Chairman Works Committee RVS
Sd/- Estate Officer RVS		

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CORRUPTENDUM
With reference to our Advertisement of
SALE NOTICE Published Dated
09.05.2026 in "The New Indian Express",
Bengalure Edition of Mr. Suresh B.K., the
Branch Name mentioned wrongly as
Kuvempu Nagar, Please read it as R.P.C.
Liaison Branch. Rest of all Other Terms &
Conditions remain same.
Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Date : 09-05-2026 | Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is inform that **Mr.Wassem Akram S/o**

 इंडियन बैंक	Indian Bank	VINAYAGAPURAM BRANCH 1177, Perambur Redhills Road, Kalpalayam, Vinayagapuram Chennai - 600 089. Telephone : 044-2562332. email : vinayagapuram@indianbank.bank.in
 इलाहाबाद	ALLAHABAD	

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank, Vinayagapuram Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction & Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated **14.01.2026** calling upon the Borrowers : **(1) Mr. Manikandan Rajendran, (Borrower/Mortgagor), 97, Subramanya Nilaya, Garudappa Circle, Behind J.B.S. Kaval High School, Thigarapalaya, Peenya II Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 058, (2) Mrs. R. Swetha, Co-borrower/ Guarantor, 97, Subramanya Nilaya, Garudappa Circle, Behind J.B.S. Kaval High School, Thigarapalaya, Peenya II Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 058, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.51,39,311/- (Rupees Fifty one lakhs thirty nine thousand three hundred and eleven only) together with further interest from 05.01.2026 till date of repayment and other cost and charges thereon, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

The present amount due as on **06.05.2026 is Rs.52,93,854/- (Rupees Fifty two lakhs ninety three thousand eight hundred and fifty four only)** for the Home Loan facility together with further interest, cost, other charges and expenses thereon.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **07th day of May of the year 2026.**

The Borrower/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of **Rs.52,93,854/- (Rupees Fifty two lakhs ninety three thousand eight hundred and fifty four only)** as on **06.05.2026** and the said amount carries further interest from **07.05.2026** till date of repayment and other costs, charges and expenses thereon.

	Indian Bank	INDIRA NAGAR BRANCH # 395, CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038
	ALLAHABAD	
APPENDIX- IV-A* (See proviso to rule 8 (6)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES		
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Collateral (Symbolic) (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank, Indira Nagar, Bangalore, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 30.05.2026, now for recovery of Rs.11,76,187.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seventy-Six Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven Only) as on 08.05.2026 with interest and Charges from 09.05.2026 due to the Indian Bank, Indira Nagar Branch, Secured Creditor, from 1) Mr R Shivakumar S/o Ramanathan (Borrower cum Mortgagor), No. 132, B-5, BDA Flats Kallahalli, Bengaluru north Bengaluru-560042 and 2) Mrs R Malavathi W/o R Shivakumar (Co-Borrower cum Mortgagor), No.132, B-5, BDA Flats Kallahalli, Bengaluru north Bengaluru-560042 The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:		
SCHEDULE		
The specific details of the assets which are intended to be brought to sale are enumerated hereunder:		
Details/ Description of Mortgaged Assets	Reserve Price	EMD Date, Time for e-auction and Property ID No.
All that piece and parcel of BDA Apartment no B-5, situated in Ground Floor (B Type) having 381 Squre Feet Built up area and 1/3x25x7.50 square meters (18.04 square meters or 194.18 Square Feet) of undivided share, right, title and interest constructed on property bearing No 132, situated at Kallahalli 1st stage, 2nd phase layout, Bangalore and Bounded on the:- East by: Road, West by: Flat No. 131, North by: Flat No.133, South by: Flat No.129.	Rs. 17,15,000.00	Rs. 17,15,000.00 DT 30.05.2026 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Property ID: IDIB7185949706
Bidders are advised to visit the website (https://www.banknet.com) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.banknet.com@psballiance.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://www.banknet.com and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://www.banknet.com		
Date: 08.05.2026, Place: Bangalore		Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities"

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder :

Mortgaged Asset - Schedule A (Total Property) : All that piece and parcel of vacant land comprised in Survey Nos.57, 58/1A, 2, 3, 4, 5, 96/3, 4, 5, 97, 98, 99, 100/1A, 1B-part, 1C, 101, 102, 103/9 situated at No.223, Kantharulu Village, Chengalpatt Taluk and in Survey Nos.264/4, 265, 266/1, 2, 267/1A, 1B, 268/1, 269/2, 271/1, 3A, 272/2B, 2A1, 4, 5, 6B, 8, 273, 274, 28/2, 2B, 3A, 275/1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 3A, 3C, 277, 278/2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 279/2, 3, 280, 281/3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 282/1A, 1B1, 1B2, 4, 5, 283/1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 284, 286/4A, 4B, 6, 8 & 8 x situated at No.225, pulipakkam Village, Chengalpatt Taluk, totally measuring an extent of 26 Acres and 2 Cents and situated within the Sub Registration District of Joint II, Chengalpatt.

Schedule B : All that piece and parcel of vacant land being house site bearing Plot No.123, measuring to an extent of 1500 Sq. ft. and delineated in the plan annexed hereto and coloured in blue and situated at Pulipakkam Village, Chengalpatt Taluk, Kancheepuram District of the housing layout now known as "Pallava Garden", as approved in D.T.C.P. No.113/2006 by the Director of Town and Country Planning and Patta No.756, comprised in part of Survey No.267/1A1A1A & 267/1B and bounded on the - North by : Plot No.122, South by : Plot No.124, East by : Plot No.118, West by : 23 feet wide Road. Admeasuring - North to South on the Eastern side : 30 feet, North to South on the Western side : 30 feet, East to West on the Northern side : 50 feet, East to West on the Southern side : 50 feet. And situated within the Registration District of Chengalpatt and Sub Registration District of Joint II, Chengalpatt.

Schedule C (Property hereby conveyed) : 750 Sq. ft. undivided share of land from and out of above "B" Schedule (1500 Sq. ft.) in "Pallava Garden" and situated within the Registration District of Chengalpatt and Sub Registration District of Joint II, Chengalpatt.

Date : 07.05.2026

Place : Chengalpattu

**Authorised Officer:
Indian Bank**

**TENDER
NOTIFICATION**

Asset Disposal by A Leading IT Company, in Bangalore

Interested vendors can reach out to the below contact for inspection of assets and submission of quotes.

Quotes need to be submitted within 7 days from the date of publication of the advertisement.

All Assets will be sold in as-is-where-is-condition.

Interested buyers need to submit a DD for Rs. 2 Lakhs as "Earnest Money Deposit", along with the quote. (Payable at Bangalore to Mphasis Ltd.).

**For site visit and asset details, contact – Prakash
Mob: 9844523213**

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
 Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia
 Website : www.scr.in
 e-Railway can be seen on www.scr.in
 website : www.scr.in/indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO: 06/2026
DL.08.05.2026.

SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
e-Procurement Tender Notice

The Following Tenders Have Been
 Floated Online. Tenders Are
 Requested To Visit The Website
www.reps.gov.in And Submit Their
 Offers Online. The Tender Description,
 Qty., EMD, SD May Be Seen In
 Website. Offers Submitted Manually
 Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post
 Will Not Be Intended. Tender
 Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due
 Date Of The Tender. "For All
 Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be
 Accepted Only Via Online System As
 Available On **www.reps.gov.in**."

LH265680, 25.05.2026 Brief
 Description: 2 pin heavy duty
 connector Rdsio/Pe/Spe/AC/0061-
 2005
 S.No.: 02 Tender No. & Due Date:
 60265952, 01.06.2026 Brief
 Description: Procurement of
 spherical washer to RDSO Drg.no.T-
 023(M)
 S.No.: 03 Tender No. & Due Date:
 6026PT016, 10.06.2026 Brief
 Description: Price agreement for Anti
 creep DeviceTWS.T-8782 &T-8783
 S.No.: 04 Tender No. & Due Date:
 66266199, 09.06.2026 Brief
 Description: Track Machine spares of
 plasser make
 S.No.: 05 Tender No. & Due Date:
 25264508, 28.05.2026 Brief
 Description: Improved Rubber side
 Bearer
 S.No.: 06 Tender No. & Due Date:
 25264836, 27.05.2026 Brief
 Description: IOH Kit for Tap changer
 S.No.: 07 Tender No. & Due Date:

Description: Mobile contact segment for Assembly for Reverser/CTF
S.No.: 08 Tender No. & Due Date: 29261028, 28.05.2026 Brief Description: Set of 3 phase traction Motor Bearing.
S.No.: 09 Tender No. & Due Date: 29261003, 29.05.2026 Brief Description: Loco side buffer Assembly High capacity and long life.
S.No.: 10 Tender No. & Due Date: 60262P011, 15.06.2026 Brief Description: Zero toe load fastenings on H beam sleepers
S.No.: 11 Tender No. & Due Date: 66266478, 15.06.2026 Brief Description: Procurement of LORAM make spacer for TM

S.No.: 12	Tender No. & Due Date: 66266326, 16.06.2026	Brief Description: Procurement of CRCC HTEC make spares for TM.
S.No.: 13	Tender No. & Due Date: 66266316, 11.06.2026	Brief Description: Procurement of JSCC Kalugaputmath make spares for TM
S.No.: 14	Tender No. & Due Date: 66265743, 09.06.2026	Brief Description: Procurement of spares for TM.
S.No.: 15	Tender No. & Due Date: 31263259, 28.05.2026	Brief Description: Knorr brems make brake calliper

S.No.: 16	Tender No. & Due Date:	31261011, 08.06.2026	Brief Description:	Top spring pad for primary suspension
S.No.: 17	Tender No. & Due Date:	60266057, 16.06.2026	Brief Description:	Procurement of plates screws to RDSO Drg.no.T-3912
S.No.: 18	Tender No. & Due Date:	33261154, 01.06.2026	Brief Description:	Flexible joint
S.No.: 19	Tender No. & Due Date:	33261605, 01.06.2026	Brief Description:	Must Change Kit
S.No.: 20	Tender No. & Due Date:	33261653, 26.05.2026	Brief Description:	Outer Bracket (RH)
S.No.: 21	Tender No. & Due Date:	33261693, 28.05.2026	Brief Description:	Outer Bracket (LH)
S.No.: 22	Tender No. & Due Date:	6026PT025, 22.06.2026	Brief Description:	Metal liner RDSO Drg.

S.No.: 23 Tender No. & Due Date:
38262348, 26.05.2026 Brief
Description: Pressure transformer

S.No.: 24 Tender No. & Due Date:
38262060, 04.06.2026 Brief
Description: Floor door frame with panel

S.No.: 25 Tender No. & Due Date:
38261060, 03.06.2026 Brief
Description: POH Kit 10 inch BMBS
Cylinder

S.No.: 26 Tender No. & Due Date:
38261636, 08.06.2026 Brief
Description: Distributor valve with
Adapter, isolating cock and Gasket

S.No.: 27 Tender No. & Due Date:
66262615, 09.06.2026 Brief
Description: Procurement of Gearbox
& Axle spares for TM

Corrigendum

1) Tender Notice No.05 dt.
01.05.2026 Tender
No.SCR26CAPTCT dt. Date
22.05.2026 may be read as Tender
No.SCR-26-CAP-TCCT.

2) Tender Notice No..04 dt.
24.04.2026 Tender No.6026PT020
Due dt. may be read as 26.05.2026
for tender 66265800 Due dt.may be
read as 25.05.2026

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders
There Are Other Tenders Having
Value Above Rs.50 Lakhs.

For Details, Please Visit Railway
Website Above.

**Principal Chief Materials
Manager/Secunderabad**

Form No. UR-C-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI
(Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorization to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar of Companies, Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Manesar, Plot No. 6, 7 & 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon-122050 that a partnership firm may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company is to carry on the business of construction and engineering projects, construction of commercial and industrial buildings, infrastructure and civil engineering projects, turnkey project execution, project consultancy, real estate development, builders and developers, construction of roads, surveys, planners and all allied and incidental activities related thereto.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company is available for inspection at the registered office at 104, 5th Sector, 13th Cross, HSR Layout, Bengaluru 560102, Karnataka.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person desiring to object to the registration of the proposed company, their objection in writing to the Registrar of Companies, Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Manesar, Plot No. 6, 7 & 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon-122050, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2026

EO Path Innovations LLP

Seorabh Kumar
Designated Partner
DIN : 09088525

**e-Tender Notice Nos.C/E.29/
Elec/M/SC/05/OSW-SW/OT/
2026-27 Dt.07.05.2026**

For and on behalf of President of India,
the undersigned invites e-tender for the
given below work up to 15.00 hours on
29.05.2026.

C.No. 01 e-Tender No.: etenderNo.
S/E: 29 / Elec/M-SC/05/OS/W-
SW/OT/2026-27 tender name E-M-SC-
05-OT-2026-27 **Name of Work :-**
Secunderabad Division Electrical
Maintenance Department - (i) Bhongir-
Construction of 8 Bedded RPF
barracks for Male at Bhongir-0ut Post
(ii) DLS/KZJ - Upgradation of RPF
post building at DLS/KZJ (iii)
Jamiakunta - Construction of CPWII
office and shed at JMKT (iv) Manugur
- Replacement of old type qutrs
(B.No.8/1-58/19-1-3 =04 units) & old
Type-II qutrs (B.No.3/1-4 =04 units) with
New Type-II qutrs at BUDR rly colony
(v) Karepalli - DKJ-BMGR Section -
KRA - Construction of Type-IV Quarter
(1No.) for SSEP/Way and Type-III
(1No.) for JE/Pwas at Karepalli (vi)
Provision of 2 Nos. of 8 passenger
capacity lifts in place of existing over
aged lifts in Sanchalan Bhavan and
Provision of 02 Nos of 13 passenger
capacity lift at New Annex Building at
RSB (vii) Provision of 01 No of 6
passenger lift capacity at Chittapur
Running Room (viii) CHZ -
Construction of new type design RPF
post-office building at Cherlapalli (x)
Secunderabad - Additional block for
TTE Rest House with 27 Beds (14
Beds for Male TTes and 13 Beds for
Lady TTes with separate toilets) with
AC's, kitchen, Store, RO water and
furniture provision (x) KHNP -
Construction of Type-II quarters 07
Nos at KHNP (xi) Proposal for
construction of new building of 5000
Sqft fri Cyber Cell/SCR for formation of
integrated command control Centre -
Electrical arrangements. **Tender
Value (₹):** 2,60,38,016.33 **EMD (₹):**
5,20,800.00 **CTF (₹):** 0.00
Completion period: 6Months

1. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at "www.ireps.gov.in" which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.
2. The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr.DEE(Maintenance), Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days.
3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Sr Divisional Electrical Engineer

(M), Secunderabad

Tender Notice No.PCME/SCR/
Mech/04/2026/WP-LGDS-RT
DL.07.05.2026

For and on behalf of President of India,
 the undersigned invites e-tender for the
 given below work up to **15.00 hours on**
01.06.2026

S.No.: 01 Tender No: SCR/Mech/
04/2026/WP-LGDS-RT dl.07.05.2026

Name of the Work: Supply, Installation
 and Commissioning (on turnkey basis)
 of Wheel Press capacity 500 Ton with
 computer based Measuring and
 Recording system as per Spec
 No.COFORMWP/500/2021/Rev0
 with industry 4.0/remote Diagnostic
 features at Carriage Workshop/
 Lallaguda. **Bid Value (₹):**
2,44,58,104.08/- Tender closing
date: 01.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs

For further details please visit the
 website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Principal Chief Mechanical
Engineer

TENDER NOTICE

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, PCCM, SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY INVITES OPEN TENDERS FOR THE FOLLOWING WORK THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT.

S.No.: 01 Tender No. & Date: C-CR-SG-PRS-M-24-25-SNT-3,
Dt: 08.05.2026 **Closing dt:** 01/06/2026

Name of the work : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Routers, Media converters and provision of structuring cable in Unified Ticketing Network for Tier-2 & Tier-3 locations as part of Pan India roll out of PRS Modernization Project over South Central Railway. **Approx Value (₹):** 56940241.28 **Bid security/EMD (₹):** 1138800

For further details, visit the website **www.irgps.gov.in**. Bid Security/EMD shall be paid as per GCC-2022.

*As per IRSGCC-2022, e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Ref: IRGCC 2022 part-I, Clause-3)

**Principal Chief Commercial
A248 Manager/Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents,
 Please visit website at
<https://www.irgps.gov.in> or
www.scri.indianrailways.gov.in

QuoteExpress

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED > MARK TWAIN

Industry needs growth pill in Kerala

Corporates ask new govt to focus on land reforms, hightech industries and infra growth

SANAL SUDEVAN @ Chennai

WITH the Congress-led United Democratic Front set to form the government in Kerala, industries and businesses want the new government to increase pace of infrastructure growth and reforms that may further boost industries. Kerala, under the LDF, had done well in building infrastructure over the past 10 years, with outgoing CM Pinarayi Vijayan claiming that his government undertook sanctioned projects worth ₹1 lakh crore.

But beyond infrastructure, the state needs enabling policies which give boost to industries, especially service sector and tourism, key revenue earners for the state. Kerala was the first state to set up an IT park in Thiruvananthapuram in 1990, much before it became a poll pitch in other states. Public sector enterprise Keltron was also among the first companies to produce electronic products in India in 1973. However, Kerala could not fully capitalise on these initiatives undertaken by previous governments.

The services sector account for 64.2% share of Kerala's Gross State Value Addition (GSVA) compared to states' average of 51%. The Industrial sector accounts for 24.9% share of Kerala's GSVA, whereas the share of an average state stands higher at 29.3%. Industrial sector is driven primarily by construction (13.6% of total GSA) and manufacturing (9.3% of total



The state has significant scope to improve its road and inland water networks, which would help it develop the best transport system in India

SN Raghuchandran Nair, Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Kerala Economy: A lowdown	
● GDP	₹13.11L lakh cr
● Per capita GDP	₹1,90,149
● Growth rate 2024-25	6.19%
● Fiscal deficit (%)	3.86%
● Outstanding debt	₹4.35 lakh cr
● Debt as % of GDP	34.87%
Sectoral contribution	
Services	64
Construction	13.6
Manufacturing	9.30
Electricity	AS% OF GSVA
Mining	0.30

GSVP: Gross State Domestic Product; GSVA: Gross State Value Addition | Source: Niti Ayog

GSVA) with minor contributions from Electricity (1.7% of total GSVA) and mining (0.3% of total GSVA).

Infrastructure push

Over the past 10 years, the state government's nodal agency, Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), has played a major role in developing infrastructure. Currently, KIIFB has funds worth ₹50,000 crore, raised through off-market borrowings against a target of ₹75,000 crore.

Jeevan Varghese, partner at Lexfins 360 Corporate Services, said: "The new government will have to find different sources to raise funds and look for ways to fast-track the completion of pending infrastructure projects."

SN Raghuchandran Nair,

president of the Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the state has significant scope to improve its road and inland water networks, which would help Kerala develop one of the best transport systems in India.

Among infrastructure projects, corporates are seeking special focus on last-mile road connectivity to attract industrial investors. Mithun Chittilappilly, MD of V-Guard Industries Ltd, told this paper that the state needs better last-mile connectivity and a robust road network.

Industrial promotion

Over the past 10 years, Kerala has made progress in promoting startups and creating an ecosystem conducive to entrepreneurship. Several startups

are operating from KIIFB properties in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram.

PM Mathew, senior fellow and director at the Institute of Small Enterprises & Development, said: "We need an Entrepreneur Security Bill similar to the Food Security Act." He believes this would encourage entrepreneurs to establish enterprises in the state and protect them from red-tapism. He added that he had helped the Punjab government design the Right to Business Act in 2020.

He also stressed the need for longer tenures for top officials at the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC). "The average tenure of the chairman and MD at KSIDC is only 1.1 years. You cannot bring about an industrial revolution with such a short tenure. This post is often treated as a punishment transfer or an assignment for incompetent officers. This mind-set needs to change," he said.

Considering Kerala's fragile ecology and the need to protect its flora and fauna, corporates and industry leaders also believe the state should focus on attracting GCCs and R&D-focused companies that can generate thousands of jobs.

To address the issue of land shortage, industry veteran Dr Viju Jacob suggested changes to land laws enacted in 1961. "Several land laws were enacted in 1961. The next government should update these laws in line with the aspirations of the current generation," he told *TNIE*.



TIGHTER RULES

- 1 Entities must adhere to wage-related instructions
- 2 The ministries must ask DDOs to verify proof
- 3 It follows a notice from the Union Labour Ministry

DEEPANSHU MOHAN

WHEN rupee crossed 80 to the dollar in 2022, it was seen as an extraordinary moment. As it now edges closer to 100, the explanations remain familiar still, suggesting rising oil prices, capital outflows, US interest rate hikes, and geopolitical tension as potential causes. These are immediate triggers behind the rupee's weakness. But the deeper issue lies elsewhere. The rupee's decline is a reflection of the extraordinary global dominance of the US dollar. A dominance that is so deeply embedded into international trade and finance that countries like India remain dependent on it while attempting to reduce that very dependence. The United States makes up approximately 15% of total global commodity trade but close to 54% of invoices for global trade are denominated in USD. Approximately 88% of all foreign exchange trades worldwide use dollar at one point or another in those trades and close to 58% of the world's total foreign exchange reserves are still held in dollar investments.

Even when India trades with countries outside the United States, transactions often still pass through dollar settlement systems. The long-term pattern of the rupee illustrates just how significant the effects of the US dollar are on the rupee. Early 2011, the rupee was traded for nearly ₹44 to \$1. By the time of the taper tantrum in early 2013, it had traded near 60 to \$1. During Covid-19 pandemic, the rupee had traded in excess of ₹70 to \$1. By 2022, as a result of the Ukraine war, the rupee traded between ₹80 and ₹85 to a dollar. Leading up to 2026, increased discussion in the offshore market about the rupee trading towards ₹100 to \$1 has become more frequent.

This drop occurred despite the fact that India has close to \$700 billion worth of foreign exchange reserves—which is more than double what they had ten years ago.

Dollar dependence deepens

In FY26, India imported more than \$100 billion in electronics. Second only to crude oil as

an import. Semiconductor imports are expected to exceed \$100 billion by 2030. We remain very dependent on imports to meet our needs for telecommunications infrastructure, industrial equipment/machinery, solar modules, lithium-ion batteries and advanced manufacturing inputs. This leads to a paradox that is seldomly recognized in conventional debates surrounding the rupee: as India grows, its demand for dollars structurally increases. This also calls into question one of the oldest tenets of macroeconomic theory: that a depreciating currency will automatically



result in an increase in exports. A weaker rupee should theoretically result in lower prices for Indian goods outside the country, therefore increasing their competitiveness. However, this assumption appears to have been created at a time when globalisation was at a much earlier stage.

The rupee depreciated against the dollar by over 50% from 2011 to 2026; however, India did not have a transformation of its exports like those of East Asian nations (China, South Korea, Vietnam). India continues to have narrow manufacturing exports and a continued structural merchandise trade deficit. In effect, depreciation increasingly transmits imported inflation faster than it generates competitiveness gains. This inflationary transmission is especially significant in India because fuel prices permeate almost every sector

of the economy.

However, currencies are influenced by more than trade. According to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), non-US borrowers outside America have a total of more than \$13 trillion in dollar-denominated debt, creating a "global dollar cycle", something that economists are increasingly talking about.

When the US Federal Reserve raises interest rates, money across the world starts flowing back to the US in search of safer returns. As a result, currencies in emerging economies weaken and borrowing becomes more expensive globally. Because of this, we can say that the trajectory of the rupee is influenced as much by Washington as it is by Mumbai. That irony captures the asymmetry of the present international monetary order.

No escape?

There have been several attempts aimed at reducing this dependence. India has since increased rupee trade with countries such as Russia and the UAE, and the push for de-dollarisation gained momentum after Western sanctions on Russia revealed the immense geopolitical power embedded within global payment systems.

Yet the dollar's dominance endures because no other currency offers the same depth, trust, and global reach. A 100 exchange rate, therefore, would reflect a weaker rupee, and also a world where even fast-growing economies remain tied to the currency of another power. India, as a consequence, must reduce its dependence on imported energy, deepen its domestic manufacturing, strengthen its technological self-reliance, and widen its non-dollar trade networks for no nation can truly claim economic sovereignty while moving synonymously to the rhythm of another empire's currency.

Deepanshu Mohan is Dean and Professor of Economics at O.P.Jindal Global University. He is a Visiting Professor at LSE and Visiting Research Fellow at University of Oxford. With inputs from Geetali Malhotra, research assistant, Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES).

Ensure timely wage payments to contract workers: Govt to ministries

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Union Finance Ministry has directed all ministries, departments, autonomous bodies and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to ensure timely payment of wages and salaries to contractual and outsourced workers in line with the implementation of the labour codes.

In an office memorandum issued by the Department of Expenditure's Procurement Policy Division on May 8, the

Centre said all procuring entities must strictly adhere to instructions related to timely payment of wages, statutory dues and monitoring mechanisms for manpower engaged directly or via contractors.

It follows a communication from the Ministry of Labour and Employment and comes after the four labour codes — the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, and the Social

Security Code, 2020 — were brought into force from November 2025.

The government said the reforms are aimed at improving worker protections, including stronger wage safeguards, expanded social security coverage and better working conditions. The ministries and departments have been asked to ensure that contractors disburse salaries on time and that Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) verify proof of payments every month.

Interio by Godrej accelerates Chennai expansion

Amplifying its commitment to delivering elevated retail experiences and making great design more accessible, Interio by Godrej, a leading furniture brand from the Godrej Enterprises Group, has launched its revamped store in Chennai alongside the unveiling of its 'Moments That Matter' (MTM) study, an initiative that explores how everyday experiences at home influence emotional well-being, connection, and comfort



for modern Indian consumers. Spread across nearly 6000 sq.ft., the store reflects Interio's commitment to provide a one-stop destination for contemporary homes, showcasing an extensive range of modular, configurable, and personalised furniture across bedroom, living, and dining categories.

Business & Beyond



SBI distributes tablets to meritorious MBBS students at SCB Medical College

State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle, distributed tablet computers to 13 underprivileged yet meritorious MBBS students of SCB Medical College and Hospital in a function organised at the SBI SCB Medical College Campus Branch. It was graced by the Dean of the institution, Dr. Pratibha Panda, who attended as the Chief Guest. Addressing the students, she remarked that they are truly blessed to have secured admission to SCB Medical College and advised them to strive for excellence in the medical field and serve society with dedication. The Regional Manager of SBI, Cuttack Region, Ashmin Anupam Praharaj, also delivered motivational advice to the students. He highlighted the Bank's continued commitment towards the upliftment of needy and underprivileged sections of society and assured ongoing support to students in academic pursuits.

Carlton London enters furniture mkt with EBG Group, plans 600 showrooms

India's evolving home interiors landscape is witnessing the entry of a global player as EBG Group partners with British lifestyle brand Carlton London to launch Carlton Luxury Furniture, a first-of-its-kind initiative focused on sustainability, longevity, and conscious living. The partnership was unveiled in the presence of Carl Virk, Founder of Carlton London, and Dr. Irfan Khan, Founder and Chairman of EBG Group, marking a shift toward high-end furniture that combines design with environmental responsibility. Backing this vision is a franchise-led expansion plan, with 600 showrooms set to open across 300 major cities over the next five years. The company will scale through a partner-led model, mobilizing investments estimated between ₹1800 and ₹2000 crore from franchise stakeholders. The venture is expected to generate nearly 12,000 jobs while bringing MSME and SME partners into its supply chain. At the heart of this launch is a strong sustainability vision. Carlton Luxury Furniture is built on the philosophy of responsible luxury, where design excellence goes hand in hand with conscious manufacturing. As part of this commitment, the brand is targeting a reduction of approximately 16,000 kg of carbon footprint annually at scale.



USTR report: Pharma cos seek govt aid

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA'S pharmaceutical industry is seeking greater government support to safeguard its formulations segment following concerns raised in the USTR Special 301 Report. However, industry leaders acknowledge that the likelihood of legal complications remains negligible as Indian companies are compliant with the norms of the World Trade Organization.

According to the latest Special 301 Report, India is among six countries on the list due to continuing concerns regarding the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, especially in the pharmaceutical sector. "India manufactures the most affordable generic medicines. But now the pharma lobby in the US is trying to restrict imports. Indian manu-

facturers could face increased competition in the formulations segment," said RS Goswami, founder and CEO of Hind Pharma.

However, exporters said the report may not trigger immediate regulatory action, though it could create competitive pressures — especially for smaller drugmakers, relying heavily on exports of low-cost generics.

Goswami added that just as India has introduced incentives for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), similar policy support may be required to protect formulation businesses. "There is also a need to simplify ease of doing business for the pharma sector," he said.

Industry stakeholders emphasised that India's intellectual property framework is compliant with the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of In-



tellectual Property Rights) Agreement, limiting the scope for any legal fallout.

"The US itself provides significant patent protections domestically, so it would be incorrect to suggest that India's approach is somehow wrong. As far as the USTR Special 301 Report is concerned, it is an on-

going process and largely reflects differing viewpoints under the TRIPS Agreement framework. There won't be any material legal implications or a significant impact on India's pharmaceutical exports," said Jatish N Sheth, director at Srushti Pharma.

However, concerns remain for smaller firms, which often operate on thin margins. Some fear that heightened scrutiny or non-tariff barriers could affect market access in the US.

Industry leaders said companies are highly competitive in developing cost-effective pharma products, helping sustain the global pharmaceutical supply chain. Ramesh Juneja, chairman of Mankind Pharma, said, "There is no infringement by Indian pharma exporters. A majority of pharma exports are WTO-compliant."

EXPRESS READ

AK Panda takes charge as SAIL Chairman & MD

NEW DELHI: Ashok Kumar Panda on Saturday assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Panda succeeds Amarendra Prakash, whose tenure ended on April 1, 2026. Panda was serving as Director (Finance), according to a company statement.



Euler Motors told *TNIE*.

So far, Euler has raised about \$200 million from Hero Moto-Corp, GIC, Lightrock and British International Investment. Kumar said that most of the funds raised have been invested in capacity expansion and product development. He added that in FY27, they have set a capital expenditure of ₹300-400 crore to support the ongoing expansion plans.

Euler Motors' revenue from operations rose 110% year-on-year to ₹402 crore from ₹191 crore in FY25, as per its financial statements.

\$200 million raised

Euler has raised about \$200 million various investors. The CEO said that most of the funds raised have been invested in capacity expansion and product development.

middle of FY27. The capacity can be increased to 3,000-4,000 units by increasing shifts. We are investing to be future-ready as demand for e-3Ws and e-4Ws is expected to remain robust," Saurav Kumar, Founder & CEO,

BARRED FROM EVENT, VINESH MAY MOVE COURT

WFI has sent show-cause notice, prohibiting wrestler to participate

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

AROUND 1300 wrestlers will converge at Nandini Nagar, Gonda (Uttar Pradesh) in the next few days beginning Saturday but the name that put the event, 2026 Senior Open Ranking Tournament, under spotlight might be missing from the list of grapplers. It was two-time World Championships bronze medalist Vinesh Phogat, who made the otherwise insignificant tournament a high profile event by announcing that she will compete marking her return to competitive wrestling since the Paris Olympic heartbreak.

The 31-year-old had registered herself in the 57kg weight category. However, after the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) slapped a show-cause notice on her on Saturday, things are looking a bit more difficult for her to compete. It was on expected lines and as was reported by this daily, the WFI's show-cause notice accused Vinesh of multiple breaches. The federation also declared her ineligible to compete in domestic events until June 26, 2026 highlighting that she failed to complete the mandatory six-month notice period needed for athletes returning from retirement under the UWW Anti-Doping rules. The notice definitely came as a shocker for Vinesh, who failed the weight test ahead of the 50kg final bout in Paris to miss out on a potential Olympic medal, but as her wont, she is expected to leave no stone unturned to make her appearance possible. "Vinesh is in Delhi and consulting her lawyers," a source close to the wrestler told this daily. The tournament will commence with men's freestyle wrestling on Sunday followed by men's Greco-Roman competition on Day 2. The women's event is scheduled on the last day, May 12, giving Vinesh an opportunity to knock the



door of court if the need arises. "Once she understands the issue after meeting her lawyers, she can even move the court if given go ahead by her advocates," added the source. Vinesh retired heartbreak. soon after after the Olympic setback and forayed into politics joining Indian National Congress, winning a seat in Haryana Assembly elections. She also gave birth to a child and announced her to return to wrestling last year.

Tussle intensifies

Given her frosty relationship with the WFI, all hell broke loose when she announced that she will compete at the ranking series. To begin with, Vinesh posted on her social media handles that she could not complete the registration process for the event as it has been closed. She later said that process had been completed but the federation refuted the charges and claimed she registered herself at night itself. The war of words only intensified since then with Vinesh raising questions over the venue chosen for the tournament. Gonda is considered a stronghold of former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh against whom Vinesh and Olympic bronze medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik launched a protest accusing him of sexual misconduct. It was followed by a whereabouts failure notice to Vinesh by the International Testing Agency. The latest in the saga is WFI's 15-page

show-cause notice, giving Vinesh a 14-day period to respond to allegations. "By virtue of your registration as a wrestler with WFI and your participation under the Indian flag in international competitions, including the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad held at Paris in 2024, you are subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of WFI and are bound by the rules and regulations framed by WFI and UWW from time to time," read the notice. "The WFI has reasons to believe that you have committed acts and omissions which are seriously prejudicial to the discipline, image, reputation, and interests of WFI, the Indian wrestling fraternity and the nation and which constitute violations of the WFI Constitution, the UWW International Wrestling Rules and the National Anti-Doping rules," it added.

As was reported by this daily, the WFI wants Vinesh's explanations on four major charges, including her disqualification from the 2024 Olympics for failing to make weight. She has also been asked to explain her alleged failures to account for her whereabouts under anti-doping rules, and how and why she competed in two weight categories during the March 2024 trials conducted by the then ad-hoc panel. "Pending submission and consideration of your reply, on the basis of your letter/email dated December 12 2025, your minimum requirement of six months period has not expired and as a consequence, you shall not be eligible to participate in any WFI competitions and events until June 26, including your ineligibility to participate in the 2026 Senior Open Ranking Tournament in Gonda and any other forthcoming national, ranking, selection and international competitions in the wider interest of the sport and the Federation." the notice added.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

BUOYED with a creditable win over Delhi Capitals in their previous game Chennai Super Kings will look to keep the momentum when they take on a rejuvenated Lucknow Super Giants at the MA Chidambaram stadium here on Sunday afternoon.

Although the Rishabh Pant-led side is languishing at the bottom of the table and chances of them making the playoffs are slim, they have the ability to play spoilsport and thus CSK must be cautious in their approach. S Sriram the spin bowling coach of CSK insisted that his team will not take any team lightly and give their best. "IPL is the best tournament in the world, so every team is very good irrespective of where they

are in the table. We treat this as any other game and we will be ready with our strategy and do what is best keeping in mind the conditions," said Sriram.

On Saturday, the pitch square was covered fully due to persistent rain. Only in the evening the cover was removed for a while and then closed. With the weather too uncertain to an extent on Sunday, the pitch No 5 should have something for the bowlers as the moisture on the surface could help them. The surface (No 5) has some assistance for spinners, hence the duo of Akeal Hosein and Noor Ahmad could be the key for the hosts in the middle overs.

LSG, on the other hand, will look to skipper Rishabh Pant, who played an excellent cameo innings against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, to post a good

Reigning World University Games champion Sahil Jadhav clinched his maiden Archery World Cup medal in only his second appearance on the global circuit, winning a bronze in the compound men's event of the Stage 2. The 25-year-old defeated Denmark veteran player-cum-coach Martin Damsbo 147-144 in the bronze medal playoff.

Super Kings seek momentum at home

POINTS TABLE					
Team	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
SRH	11	7	4	14	0.73
GT	11	7	4	14	0.228
PBKS	10	6	3	13	0.571
RCB	10	6	4	12	1.23
RR	11	6	5	12	0.08
CSK	10	5	5	10	0.15
KKR	10	4	5	9	-0.16
DC	11	4	7	8	-1.15
MI	10	3	7	5	-0.64
LSG	10	3	7	6	-0.93

score against CSK. Rishabh Pant has not played to potential and it appears that he is suffering from the weight of expectations. "It's a much-debated ques-

tion that's been going around. Even the last time when I was asked about him I said he's just one innings away from getting his best. So, last match (against RCB) he proved, he played a fantastic, very match-defining innings, even though it might have been short, but he played a match-defining innings. It's just that we did not click fully well as a team," said Bharat Arun, bowling coach of Lucknow.

The visitors have bowlers like the experienced Moahmmad Shami, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav and Digvesh Rathi. Prince is in hot form and the talk of the town for dismissing former India captain Virat Kohli for a blob with an unplayable ball. Prince, a product of tennis-ball cricket, made his IPL debut last year.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

POSITIVE MINDSET

SHEDGE, PBKS STAY IN PRESENT

GOMESH S @ Chennai

AT a time when the Indian Premier League season is nearing its business end, momentum seems to be the buzz word. Some teams, which dominated the first half, seem to be losing steam while the bottom rung teams are climbing up and spoiling the party for mid-table teams. Punjab Kings, who still remain in top four, however, are not seeing it as a concern. Days ago, they seemed invincible, winning six and a rain wash out in seven games. But the last three have not gone their way. Not just Rajasthan Royals, Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad also beat them.

However, the race is far from over. PBKS have played only ten unlike many teams that are at 11. And more than anything, the mood in the camp remains as positive as it ever was, according to Suryansh Shedge. The youngster, who came into the team in the second half of the season, feels skipper Shreyas Iyer and coach Ricky Ponting have kept the atmosphere light and positive. "Since the start, when Ricky sir came in and Shreyas bhaiya (brother) was appointed the captain last year, the focus has always been on keeping the atmosphere light and happy so that people feel at peace," Shedge said in a media interaction on Saturday. "They feel comfortable with the surroundings. I know it's easy to get carried away and start playing the blame game. But right now, we need to stick together as a team. "That is what will help



Suryansh Shedge | PBKS

us. Preparation-wise, I think personal preparations will change. But as a team, we'll try to prepare in the same way I think we won six matches with the same preparation. All these things can happen. I know there are a few areas we need to improve on. All those have been addressed," he added.

One such example is the chat Ponting had with him midway through the season when he was warming the bench. "The talks were always about how well I'm batting in the nets and how I can get an opportunity at any time. I remember after the fourth or fifth game, after the net session, he (Ponting) took me aside. He asked me if I'm frustrated. I said no at first. He said, be honest. So I said, 'yes, sir. At night, I do feel it sometimes'. He said, 'I can totally understand how you're feeling'. He said that four or five players from our franchise can walk into any other franchise and play in the playing XI."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Gill and Sai Sudharsan set up Titans' victory

SUPER SUNDAY

With the table getting crowded, every point will matter from here on. A look at the double-header today...

Can LSG spoil CSK party?

For a team that has little to lose, Lucknow Super Giants can come out and spoil the party for a few teams, but none more than Chennai

Super Kings. Despite the momentum, CSK have two games against LSG, first of which will be played on Sunday.

Will RCB feel at home?

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will take Mumbai Indians, another team that had inflict serious damage, at a new home — Raipur. They will play two home games in the city, but will have to see if they feel at home in a new venue.

CSK vs LSG, Chennai, 3.30PM

RCB vs MI, Raipur, 7.30PM

Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar



GT skipper Shubman Gill celebrates his fifty | PTI

ENS @ Chennai

ALTHOUGH it has become the norm at this point, on Saturday, skipper Shubman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan hit fifties to set up the 77-run win for Gujarat Titans against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur: Sai Sudharsan hit a 36-ball 55 before Gill took the innings deep with a 44-ball 84 as Titans finished with 229/4 on the board. In reply, RR did not have the greatest of starts. Despite Vaibhav Sooryavanshi cameo (36 off 18), they lost wickets in cluster, crumbling to 152 in 16.3 overs.

Earlier, put into bat, Titans started well once again thanks to the ever-consistent opening duo. Known for their regular scoring, Gill and Sai Sudharsan has upped their tempo in recent times and it showed on Saturday as well. Together, they added 82 runs in the first six overs before taking the opening stand to 118/1 in 10.5 overs. Sai Sudharsan was the first to fall, but Gill kept the innings going. The skipper, who has a point to prove after being dropped from the Indian T20I team, went berserk, smashing RR bowlers all over the park. By the time he eventually got out, Gill had smashed 84 runs in just 44 balls, leaving GT in a good position. **Brief scores:** Gujarat 229/4 in 20 ovs (Gill 84, Sai Sudharsan 55, Washington 37, Brijesh 2/47) **bt** Rajasthan 152/10 in 16.3 ovs (Jadeja 38; Rashid 4/33).

EXPRESS READ

Yashasvi and Shafali get NADA notices

NEW DELHI: Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma have been issued notices by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for not being available for scheduled dope tests last year, leading to their first whereabouts failure. It is reliably learnt that the two players, who are a part of the NADA's RTP, did not explain the reasons for the missed tests, leading to the notices.

Tajinderpal captures men's shot put title

SANGRUR: Punjab's Tajinderpal Singh Toor won the men's shot put title in the fifth-leg of the Indian Athletics Series here on Saturday, as the reigning Asian Games champion continued his preparations for the major competitions later this season. The 31-year-old Toor dominated the men's shot put event as he sent the iron ball to 19.97m to emerge on top.

ISSF WC: Neeru finishes seventh in women's trap

ALMATY: Neeru Dhanda produced an impressive effort but finished seventh in the women's trap final at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup as India's medal drought continued on Saturday. The 25-year-old was the first to be eliminated in the high-quality eight-shooter final after managing seven hits in the opening 10-shot elimination stage. Australia's Penny Smith, the Paris Olympics bronze medalist, clinched gold.

Focus on Asian Weightlifting C'ships

AHMEDABAD: Athletes from 30 countries, including several world and Olympic medalists, will participate in the 2026 Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships to be held in Gandhinagar from May 11 to 17, Indian Weightlifting Federation president Sahdev Yadav said on Saturday. India's star weightlifter and Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu, however, will miss the event due to injury, he said.

Man City close gap on Arsenal in PL title race

AGENCIES @ London

JEREMY Doku, Erling Haaland and Omar Marmoush were on the scoresheet as Manchester City posted a crucial 3-0 victory over Brentford to close the gap on Arsenal in the Premier League on Saturday.

After a goalless opening half, there were some nerves at the Etihad Stadium. But in-form Doku, who scored a double against Everton in City's previous game, broke the deadlock with a superb strike, lifting the crowd in the process. Haaland then doubled City's lead with a scrappy finish just 15 minutes later. That more or less eased the tension as City went on to add one more goal during injury time through Marmoush. With three matches remaining, City are now just two points behind league leaders Arsenal, who are set to play West Ham on Sunday. Arsenal have 76 points while City have 74.

Liverpool, United held

In the earlier matches, Liver-



Manchester City's Jeremy Doku celebrates after scoring on Saturday | AP

pool missed the chance to all but secure Champions League action next season after a 1-1 draw against Chelsea, while Manchester United were frustrated in a goalless stalemate at Sunderland.

Manchester United are already assured of Champions League football following their win over Liverpool last weekend. Michael Carrick's third-placed side have little left to play for.

Results: Fulham 0-1 Bournemouth; Brighton 3-0 Wolves; Sunderland 0-0 Man United; Liverpool 1-1 Chelsea; Manchester City 3-0 Brentford.

Vijay swearing in may affect nat'l series athletics

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

As the new government in Tamil Nadu is set to take charge, events on Sunday's Indian Open Athletics series-6 may get affected. The swear-in ceremony for the new government led by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam president C Joseph Vijay is set to take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium — adjacent to the outdoor venue — by 10 am.

The Tamil Nadu Athletics Association (TNAA) — the organisers of the event — have sent out a notice to athletes urging them to arrive at the venue early. "Due to traffic restrictions on the approaching roads to the stadium, the athletes participating in the events of morning session from 7.30 am to 11.30 am are requested to enter the sta-



dium before 6.30 am," the notice read.

Athletes participating in the events, scheduled from 6 am to 7.30 am, should be at the stadium by 5 am, the notice went on to add. TNAA organising secretary C Latha said that she hopes to see athletes reach the venue within the said time. "If there is a large-scale absence of athletes due to the surging

crowd, then we may conduct it at a later time."

Some of the finals that are scheduled are 110m hurdles (five between 9.40am to 10.25am), discus throw women at 10.30am, two 100m hurdles final at 10.35 and 10.45 and the long jump women final is slated at 11.30am before a one and a half hour break.

According to the current schedule the last event was slated for 8.55pm.

Reworking approach & acclimatisation: Sreeshankar's prep for key meets

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

AS scores of athletes practice ahead of the Indian Athletics Open Series - 6, which is the final event before the all-important National Senior Athletics Federation Competition later this month, India's ace long jumper M Sreeshankar's presence cannot go unnoticed. The 27-year-old from Palakkad made a strong return from a knee injury last year. He was able to jump beyond the eight-metre mark and earned qualification to the Tokyo Worlds.

The Federation Competition serves as the final selection trial to the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Glasgow, set to begin in July. This year, he continued

his strong run. In the Indian Jumps at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, he recorded an eight-metre leap to win gold. As he prepares in weather conditions which have thrown everyone by surprise as the day saw rains, Sreeshankar said this is a preparatory event. "The main target is to be in good shape for the main events. But the Indian standards are also high right now. So, I have to tweak my preparations. We have two other jumpers (Shah Navas and Lokesh Selva Prabhu) who can jump 8.20 metres. After 2022, this is the first time we have three jumpers at the 8.15-8.20 metre mark which is good for the sport," he said after practice on Saturday.



M Sreeshankar | FILE PIC

With other jumpers raising the bar, Sreeshankar explained his preparations. "High tides raise all shapes. Basically, Jeswin (Aldrin) pushed me to the 8.40m range. So this will also help me get to the next level after

injury," he said. His preparations ahead of a demanding season has so far been good, but has also come with some lessons. While he has had a "proper pre-season", Sreeshankar got time to do some course-correction in a high-performance training camp along with his father Murali in South Africa, in addition to taking part at the Simbine Classic in Pretoria. He learnt how to acclimatise to cold conditions, which could come useful in the upcoming CWG in Glasgow. "I learned how to get myself prepared whenever the weather changes, and strategise my warm-ups. It was a good experience," he said.

The key correction that the Asian Games and CWG silver

medallist worked on is his approach. "I worked a lot on my approaches. The first two phases of my approach is where I was always getting it wrong. The approach rhythm determines everything for the jump," he said. "If I rush in the first phase of my approach, then I have to extend my step towards the last phase of the approach. I have to be very calm and keep focussing on the push of the first few steps in the approach. I have to get the take-off board right under my hips, which is the main target. But I was doing the complete reverse, (of going full speed in the first few metres). So, that was the main problem I was facing. We worked on different strategies in the initial couple of

steps," he said. With key tweaks, Sreeshankar may position himself in a favourable position ahead of the Federation Competition in Ranchi.

Vishal rested

National record holder and quarter-miler from Tamil Nadu, Vishal TK, will not take part in the Indian Athletics Open series - 6. It is reliably learnt that he has been rested as a precaution after the World Athletics Relays meet last week in Botswana. He is expected to take part in the Senior Athletics Federation Competition later this month. In 2026, Vishal has taken part in two domestic events (200m event in Indian Athletics series - 1 and 400m in Indian Open series - 3).



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